

## U.N. files relief mission to Sudan

NAIROBI (AP) — The United Nations said Saturday it sent five mercy flights to the besieged southern Sudan town of Juba despite rebel threats to shoot down the aircraft. Some 200 tonnes of corn, medicine and building materials have been delivered to Juba's 300,000 residents, said Paul Mitchell, a spokesman for the Rome-based World Food Programme. Relief flights were halted July 18 when the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels intensified shelling of the town, but were resumed Thursday from Entebbe, Uganda. Juba has been unreachable by road and boat for the past four years largely due to fighting in the area. Residents have relied on relief flights for survival. The United Nations hopes to deliver 1,075 tonnes of emergency supplies in the aircraft. Mr. Mitchell said food stocks in Juba had run out when the airlift resumed, and malnutrition and diseases had increased among the residents. On Tuesday, the interdenominational New Sudan Council of Churches asked U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to seek the evacuation of civilians from Juba, 850 kilometres south of Khartoum.

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## Arabs seek Gulf support on Jerusalem

AMMAN (R) — Arab states holding peace talks with Israel plan to contact Gulf states to enlist their help in a campaign to force Israel to halt Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem, a Palestinian official said on Saturday. Palestinian peace talks delegate Saeb Erekat said a meeting of Arab front-line states in Damascus this week agreed to send officials from Syria and Egypt to the six Gulf Cooperation Council members. "We want to discuss with the GCC the issue of Jerusalem, settlements and the danger facing its status in light of Israel's plans to continue with the construction of 14,199 houses there," Dr. Erekat said. "We want a unified Arab position on that." Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Palestinian delegates from the occupied territories attended the talks before the start of the sixth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington next week. Syrian and Egyptian officials would pave the way for a similar tour of GCC capitals by a team representing all the parties to the Damascus talks, Dr. Erekat said.

## Mubarak phones King in hospital

ROCHESTER (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Saturday evening a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who congratulated him on the success of the operation which His Majesty underwent last Thursday. Mr. Mubarak wished King Hussein continued good health and voiced hope that the King would return home fully recovered "to lead his people for further progress and prosperity."

## Abu Jaber to lead preparatory team to NAM summit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and formed Jordan's delegation to the preparatory ministerial meeting of the 10th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit. Jordan's delegation to the meeting to open in Jakarta Aug. 28 will be headed by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and will include as members Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh, Director of the International Organisations Department Khalil Othman, Jordan's Ambassador in Jakarta Larai Khashman, Third Secretary at the Jordanian embassy in Jakarta Mohammad Al Fayez and Bashir Al Zu'bi of the Foreign Ministry. The Cabinet also approved allocating JD 5,000 to cancer patients in Iraq for treatment purposes upon a recommendation by the minister of health. It also approved the participation of the minister of industry and trade in the meetings of the general assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian Free Zones Company. While in Damascus, the minister will also open the Jordanian pavilion in Damascus International Fair and will hold talks with Syrian officials on ways of enhancing commercial and economic relations.

## Iraqi denies Briton's sentence politically motivated

LONDON (AP) — A Briton who was sentenced to seven years in an Iraqi prison was not jailed because of the growing tension in the Gulf, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations said Saturday. Paul Ride, 33, began a seven-year sentence Thursday after being found guilty of illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait. Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Abdul Amir Al Anbari, denied Ride's sentence was politically motivated.

## Kurds protest Turkish 'massacres'

PARIS (AP) — Kurdish protesters broke windows of the Turkish Airlines office here Saturday, and demonstrated in front of the Eiffel Tower to protest Turkish "massacres" of Kurds by government soldiers. A group called the Young Patriotic Revolutionaries of Kurdistan was responsible for smashing windows at the airline office, a telephone caller told the Associated Press in Paris. The group wanted "to protest against the massacres committed at Sinak" in Turkish Kurdistan "where hundreds of civilian Kurds have been killed and hundreds of houses destroyed and burned since Aug. 18," the caller said.

## Mystery light appears in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — People in west Cyprus have been perplexed by a brilliant light passing through the midnight sky, which a historian said Saturday has been observed on the same date but not each year. Theories on the mystery in the local news media after Tuesday night's phenomenon ranged from an extraterrestrial object, a falling star, a missile fired from the adjacent British military base, or space debris burning up on re-entering the atmosphere. Historian Andros Pavlides said the mystery has recurred at irregular intervals for centuries, always on the same date and time, midnight Aug. 18. Mr. Pavlides said the first recorded reference was by medieval Chronicler Leontios Macheras, who described a great star falling from the sky on Aug. 6, 1426.

## U.S. on defensive, says Iraq will not be divided

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON, reeling back from criticism from some of its allies in the Middle East over its plans to set up a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq, appeared to go on the defensive Saturday saying it was not trying to slice up Iraq. "The last thing we want is to cut Iraq into pieces for other countries to pick up," said one official, quoted by agencies on condition he not be identified. "It is not a matter of dividing Iraq," another official was quoted as saying. "The Gulf war ceasefire resolutions stipulate that Iraq cannot use force to destroy its people..." The comments came after Syria, Iran and Turkey voiced rejection of the "no-fly zone" plan, drawn up by the U.S., Britain and France. The State Department, meanwhile, warned American travellers to avoid Jordan and cautioned them against travel in the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa because of mounting tensions with Iraq. The Jordanian warning cited "the increased risk of possible terrorist acts directed against the U.S. government or U.S. citizens in the area." Administration officials said the United States, Britain and

## Jordan assails Western moves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber on Saturday condemned moves by the Western Gulf war allies to set up an air exclusion zone in southern Iraq. "Jordan rejects any attempt to infringe on the sovereignty of Iraq," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Dr. Abu Jaber as saying. "Any move designed to harm the unity of the Iraqi people or infringe on Iraq's territorial integrity will shake the stability and security of the whole region, exposing its nations and their peoples to dangerous consequences," he said. "The Iraqi people have paid a dear price for the Gulf crisis through suffering that has continued since the outbreak of the crisis. The time has come now for the world community to cast a humanitarian look at the whole question and put an end to the sufferings of the Iraqi people."

Jordan condemns allies' moves, page 3

France are expected on Tuesday to begin enforcing the "no-fly zone" south of the 32nd Parallel in Iraq in a bid aimed at preventing Iraqi warplanes from attacking Shiite Muslim dissidents.

Iraq's prime minister condemned the plans and said it were part of a plot to divide the country, the Iraqi News Agency said. Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zuhaidi said the Iraqis would defend the country's integrity with all their power. "Iraq firmly rejects any criminal act schemed by the United States, Britain and France," Mr. Zuhaidi was quoted as saying at a special meeting of the cabinet. He said "the three colonialist countries, in coordination with the Iranian regime, are aiming at Iraq's national unity and want to bring back the English and American colonialists' domination on Iraq's wealth."

"The Iraqi premier added that Iraqis shall stand united to foil the conspiracy, whatever the consequences might be," said the agency.

Iran said Saturday that the "genocide" of Shiite Muslim in southern Iraqi marshlands must be stopped but not at the cost of forcing the breakup of Iraq.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the supreme National Security Council "underlined the need to stop the genocide," but added: "The Islamic Republic insists that Iraq's territorial integrity and



Jordanian population 3.88 million at end of '91

By Mamdoun Al Hawamdeh Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's population stood at 3,888,000, at the end of 1991, the bulk of it in Amman Governorate where 1,573 million people were estimated to be living, according to a recent study conducted by the Department of statistics.

The study gave a further split-up in various governorates: Irbid 950,000; Zarqa 601,000; Mafrqa, 156,000; Balqa 239,000; Karak 163,000; Tafleeh 62,000, and Maan 144,000.

According to the study, the number of people living in the Greater Amman area stood at 1,328,200, accounting for 34.2 per cent of the total population in Jordan. In Amman proper the number was 965,000, accounting for 24.8 per cent. The population of Wadi Seer, which is close to Amman and part of the greater area of the capital, the number was estimated at 88,000; Sweileh 49,300; Madaba 50,300; Zarqa 309,000; Irbid 216,000; Ruseifa 115,000; Ramtha 40,000; Mafrqa, 37,000 and Aqaba 12,400.

Children under 15 years of age constituted 43 per cent of the total population, down from 45.5 per cent found in a 1987 study and 50.7 per cent in a 1979 study.

The 1991 study also indicated that a decline in the fertility rate in the past decade meant a decline in the number of the under-15 group and a rise in other age groups. People above 60 years of age rose by 4.1 per cent in 1987 and by 4.4 per cent in 1991.

According to the study, the under-39 group rose from 45 per cent in 1979 to 53 per cent in 1991, indicating that the average life expectancy is on the rise in the Kingdom coupled by a decline in births.

## Lebanese elections begin today — minister

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's parliamentary election will go ahead on Sunday despite a threat by the country's rightist Christians to boycott it, a government minister said on Saturday.

Labour Minister Abdullah Al Amin, a member of the cabinet, said voting in the first general election since 1972 would start on schedule after the failure of last-minute Christian efforts to have the poll postponed.

"The election will go ahead on schedule," Mr. Amin said after marathon talks with President Elias Hrawi, a Maronite Christian.

A government source said there appeared no further chance of meeting Christian demands for a postponement. "Until now, the elections will take place tomorrow unless a last-minute miracle takes place," the source said.

Christian areas of Lebanon were paralysed for the second day by a strike in protest at holding the elections while Syrian troops still control Beirut and surrounding areas.

The dispute over the timing of the election has aroused fears that Lebanon will plunge into renewed conflict just as it is recovering from 15 years of civil war.

Voting is scheduled to start on Sunday in northern and eastern Lebanon but many of the 700,000 Christians among the two million voters are expected to join the boycott call.

Police reported bomb attacks on property of two Christian candidates, the first acts of violence since the Christian opposition launched the general strike Friday.

Christian politicians George Saadeh and Nasib Lahoud, members of a five-man mediation committee, announced in a joint statement that "all initiatives to bring about a postponement of the elections have reached a dead end."

Christian officials said Mr. Hrawi was sympathetic to the proposal to delay the election but set unacceptable conditions. Damascus rejected it, they added.

The first phase of the three-stage balloting was scheduled to start in the eastern Bekaa Valley and northern Lebanon at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) Sunday.

Minister without Portfolio Nabih Berri, a Shiite Muslim who is a staunch ally of Syria, said the opposition "has led the nation to an atmosphere of challenge."

Police said no casualties were reported in the explosions overnight that damaged the car of candidate August Bakhos and offices of the Elka Cement Company, owned by candidate Rashid Khazen. Both men are Maronite Catholics.

Mr. Bakhos also is member of the five-man committee that was mediating between Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir and Mr. Hrawi.

## By-election results reflect diehard traditions

By Mariam M. Shakhin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The results of last week's by-elections in the Fourth and Sixth districts of Amman have changed little in the Lower House of Parliament. Both winners came from the same tribal and political backgrounds as their predecessors. However the political evolution which led to the status quo being maintained has been in the making for the past two decades.

The election results marked the continuity of the same political trends that have been evolving ever since multi-party democracy was suspended in the late 50s, and the trend that the by-elections have set is likely to reassert itself in next year's general elections.

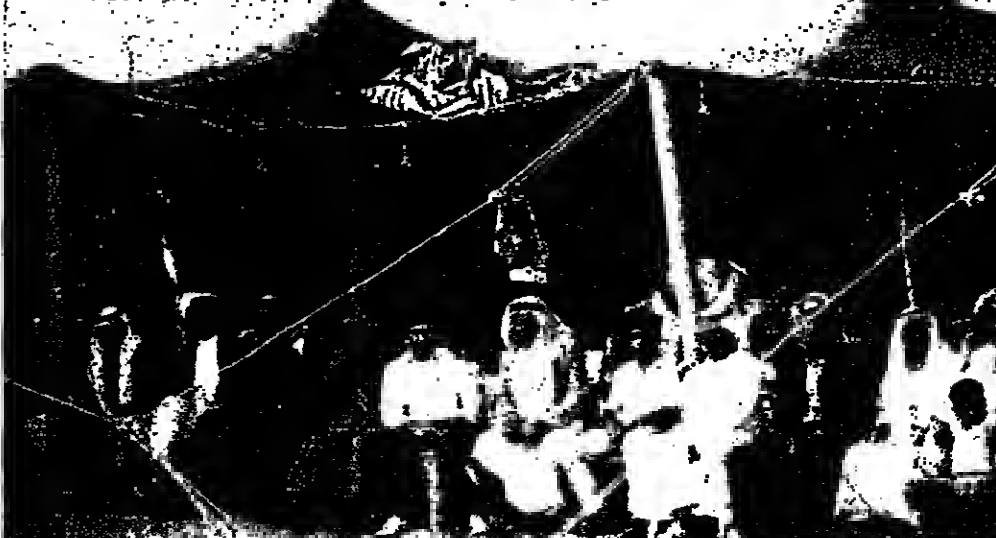
In the Fourth District — Qweisemeh — Anwar Al Hadid replaced his late cousin Nayer Al Hadid. The winner of the Sixth District — Madaba — seat, Mohammad Khrebat Al Azaideh, succeeds his relative,

the late Ahmad Qutish Al Azaideh. Both ran on the same political slogans and affiliations that their predecessors had.

Their victories reflect a political conservatism that is likely to continue to dominate Jordan's political scene for many years to come, political analysts and observers say.

The rise of conservatism, the analysts say, is largely due to the decline of progressive political movements which included the left and the pan-Arab groups. But the trend towards conservatism can also be attributed to a return to tribalism and traditionalism as a reaction to or perhaps as a force accompanying the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the country.

While the weakening of the left and pan-Arab movements has been due to the fundamental changes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and the devastating effects of the Gulf war against pan-Arab Iraq, it has also been



An election campaign base of the Muslim Brotherhood in Madaba

the result of years of clandestine underground work.

The left was among the most repressed groups in the Kingdom before political reforms were introduced in 1989. Last

week's by-elections were probably the best case in point.

The only leftist candidate in the by-elections ran in the Madaba district where he came last, winning 6,451 out of

21,138 votes cast. Ironically, the candidate, Abdul Hafith Shakhaneh, received most of his votes because of his tribal

(Continued on page 5)

## King reassures Regent, Sharif Zeid on his post-surgery recovery

Doctor says operation was permanent cure

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday contacted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker by telephone reassuring them about his health.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King informed the Regent and the prime minister that he was recovering well from a surgery he underwent Thursday at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

In his telephone conversation, the King enquired about general affairs in the Kingdom and voiced his gratitude to the Jordanian people for enquiring about his health and wishing him speedy recovery, Petra said.

The speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament,

Ahmad Al Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabiyat, respectively sent cables to King Hussein congratulating him on the success of the operation and wishing him speedy recovery.

Earlier, the Royal Court said in a statement that surgeons removed King Hussein's left kidney and ureter after finding signs of "abnormal cells" in the tube that carries urine to the bladder.

"There is no need for any further treatment or post-operative radiotherapy because the surgery, which was a total success, is considered a permanent cure," the statement quoted the King's personal physician as saying.

The statement, the first issued by the court since Thursday's surgery, did not elaborate on

what was abnormal about the cells. Radiotherapy is used extensively to fight cancer.

The doctor said the King was in good health and recovering with no complications and would leave the Mayo Clinic in a week.

"The results of the biopsy taken during the operation from His Majesty's left ureter showed signs of abnormal cells," the physician was quoted as saying from Rochester by the court.

Therefore, the decision was made, in the presence of the Jordanian medical team, to remove the left ureter and the left kidney as a precautionary measure," he added.

The abnormal cells were "isolated and restricted only to the

(Continued on page 5)

## Palestinians tentatively expected to fly to Washington tomorrow

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel is expected to arrive here Sunday and leave for Washington Monday if American and Russian diplomatic intervention manages to break a deadlock over what was described by Israelis as a travel procedure but by Palestinians as a basic issue concerning their dignity.

A team of 28 Palestinian delegates, advisors and support staff turned back from the King Hussein Bridge Friday after the Israeli occupation authorities demanded that five of them sign a document requesting permission

to return to the occupied territories.

While the requirement of the document is made applicable by the occupation authorities to all Palestinians under 35 years, it was not applied to the Palestinian delegation and support staff earlier, according to delegates.

However, the issue has gone beyond a procedural problem to a fundamental, in the Palestinian stand, delegate Saeb Erekat said in Amman.

"We are no longer willing put up with humiliation and indignity," Dr. Erekat told the Jordan Times, dismissing reports that the Palestinians were willing to accept a "compromise."

Israel Radio reported earlier

that Palestinian delegates were in intense consultation with U.S. and Russian diplomats to find a "compromise" with Israel to arrive in Washington in time for the peace talks Monday.

"We should have a definite protocol or agreement that we would be treated with dignity and there would be an end to the humiliation that we suffer when we cross the bridge," Dr. Erekat said.

Dr. Erekat, who is among the Palestinian delegates who have been travelling outside the occupied territories in the run-up to Monday's resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington, said Israel

(Continued on page 5)

## Hekmatyar agrees to conditional truce

KABUL (Agencies) — A rebel Afghan Mujahedeen chief told mediators on Saturday he would agree to a ceasefire with the Islamic government on condition his demands were met, and both sides said they would implement a truce to evacuate diplomats.

Fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said his Hezbe-Islami fighters would hold their fire on condition the Islamic government sets a date to withdraw formerly communist Uzbek militia now integrated with government troops, one mediator said.

"Our meeting was very good, but Hekmatyar had some conditions which he will discuss with (President Burhanuddin) Rabbani and (Defence Minister Ahmad Shah) Masood," a Mujahedeen source quoted delegate Engineer Mahmood as saying.

Pakistan meanwhile sealed its border with Afghanistan to stop the flow of weapons, Mr. Hekmatyar, who has been terrorising the battle worn capital, a senior

Afghan government official said.

"In response to the concerns of the Afghan government Pakistan stopped the complete supply of everything to Afghanistan," Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hamid Karzai said.

Mr. Karzai welcomed Pakistan's refusal to aid Mr. Hekmatyar, once Islamabad's closest ally, but said it has hurt the flow of humanitarian aid to his shell-shocked homeland.

"We asked them not to stop the supply of medicine and food," he told the Associated Press.

The 15-man mediator mission made up of various Mujahedeen parties met Mr. Hekmatyar at a base outside Kabul to try to negotiate an end to his two-week bombardment of the city that has killed or injured more than 1,000 people, and hit every hospital in the city.

Mission leader commander Haji Shomali Khan said talks were needed.

## Jordanian delegation arrives in Washington

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian delegation to bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks arrived in Washington Saturday morning.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majidi, who heads the delegation, expressed hope that the new Israeli government led by Yitzhak Rabin would be ready to work for peace on the basis of international legitimacy, "particularly that the Israelis were not serious in the past in working out a just and comprehensive settlement in the region."

He said in reply to a question on the U.S. decision to grant Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees: "We are not glad if the guarantees were given without halting settlement activity (in the occupied territories) and it is

crucial for us to understand

(Continued on page 5)

## Bush gets a boost but economy worries voters

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — President George Bush got a political boost as a result of the Republican national convention, but nearly half of those responding to a new poll said the country was in a serious recession.

A Los Angeles Times poll found that Democrat Bill Clinton still leads Mr. Bush, 49 per cent to 41 per cent. But that the margin is considerably less than the 23 per cent point lead the Arkansas governor had in a Times poll taken just before the start of last week's Republican convention.

Mr. Bush also received his first favourable job rating in a Times poll since November — 53 per cent to 44 per cent, up nine percentage points from a week earlier. Voters' impression of Mr. Clinton remained favourable, 54 per cent to 35 per cent.

Two-thirds of those interviewed said the United States was on the wrong track, and nearly half said the country is in a "serious" recession.

The telephone poll of 1,186 registered voters, conducted Thursday and Friday, found that eight per cent of those interviewed were undecided about which presidential candidate to vote for, while two per cent volunteered that they favoured Ross Perot. The poll had a margin of error of three percentage points.

Other surveys taken as the republican convention wrapped up also found Mr. Bush climbing in the polls.

A CBS News-New York Times Times poll taken just before the start of last week's Republican convention.

Mr. Bush also received his first favourable job rating in a Times poll since November — 53 per cent to 44 per cent, up nine percentage points from a week earlier. Voters' impression of Mr. Clinton remained favourable, 54 per cent to 35 per cent.

"We're going to go out of here with a head of steam. The president is going to be on the road five-six days a week," he said.

But Ron Brown, the Democratic Party chairman, said in the

(Continued on page 5)



## U.N. chief gives Sahara plan another few weeks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali says he cannot reactivate a plan for solving the problem of Western Sahara unless Morocco and the Polisario Front soon narrow their differences, according to a U.N. report obtained by Reuters.

"Unless... tangible results can be achieved over the next several weeks, I will be obliged to conclude, however reluctantly, that my efforts to reactivate the settlement plan have come to naught and that the parties are not willing to cooperate as necessary for the settlement plan to be implemented in its present form," the secretary-general wrote.

The report, due to be published shortly, does not say how he would proceed if this occurred.

The U.N. plan, which began with a ceasefire in September 1991, originally called for a referendum last January to decide whether Western Sahara should be integrated into Morocco, which controls most of the former Spanish colony, or become independent, as sought by Polisario.

The plan has been blocked by disagreement over who should be allowed to vote and a U.N. field operation, called the U.N. mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (Minurso), has been only partially deployed.

In his report, addressed to the Security Council, Dr. Ghali said he was encouraged by progress achieved by his special representative, former Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. But it remained to be seen whether the two sides were willing to adjust their positions far enough to allow concrete progress towards a referendum.

He intended to submit a further report before the end of September focusing on the results of the next round of talks which his special representative would hold with the parties, beginning on Aug. 24.

Giving details of the last round of separate meetings, which began in mid-June, he said while differences over voting criteria were the main obstacle, the two sides agreed to a suggestion by Mr. Yaqub Khan to concentrate initially on safeguards to protect the political, economic, social and other rights of whichever side lost the referendum.

The talks, intended as a confidence-building measure, "did achieve their principal purpose in the sense that both parties now stand ready to engage in a new round of talks with the special representative, this time devoted to the interpretation of the criteria for eligibility to vote."

The secretary-general added: "I am encouraged by the progress achieved until now in my special representative's talks with the parties. It remains to be seen, however, whether the parties are willing to go far enough in adjusting their positions so as to make it possible to advance in real and concrete terms towards the holding of a referendum."

Dr. Ghali also said he had asked his special representative to explore the possibility of getting Morocco to postpone planned municipal and legislative elections and a plebiscite on constitutional reform, in which the inhabitants of Western Sahara would be eligible to participate.

Mr. Yaqub Khan was told during a visit to Rabat last month

that Morocco was reluctant to consider a postponement. But it was willing to give a written commitment that the elections would be quite separate from the holding of a referendum under the U.N. plan and that Morocco solemnly reaffirmed its commitment to abide by the results of the U.N. referendum.

The secretary-general said Polisario, in recent statements, had "reacted very negatively to the possibility of Moroccan elections being extended to Western Sahara."

He added: "I continue to be of the opinion that it would have been preferable for Morocco to postpone its plans for elections and a plebiscite. In light of assurances given to me by H.M. King Hassan II, including his reaffirmation of Morocco's commitment to abide by the results of the referendum. I do not propose, however, to pursue this matter, in the expectation that both parties will extend their full cooperation to my special representative in his current efforts aiming at breaking the deadlock in which the settlement plan has found itself since the beginning of this year."

Dr. Ghali reported a marked decline in ceasefire violations in Western Sahara confirmed by Minurso observers, with only six in the June-August period, all attributed to the Moroccan side, compared with 102 in the three months March-May 1992.

Polisario also lodged a number of complaints concerning overflights by military aircraft and, in one instance, regarding unauthorized firing. But Minurso was unable to confirm or refute any of them.

## Arabs, Israelis expect progress in peace talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Middle East peace talks got off to a fresh start next week with expectations high that the emergence of a new moderate government in Israel will pave the way for real progress for the first time.

Officially, the four weeks of scheduled talks in Washington constitute the sixth round since the parties first met last October at the historic Madrid Middle East peace conference.

But in fact they could mark the real beginning of meaningful negotiations. U.S. Israeli and Arab officials all expect a sharp break from the previous five rounds, which were marked by long-winded procedural battles, mud-slinging and no progress on the substantive issues at the heart of the decades-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

As a sign of their new approach, the Israeli and Jordanian delegations said they would no longer hold daily press conferences, which in the past were occasions for criticizing the other side.

"We want it to be more serious and that means getting the talks out of the media and respecting the confidentiality of the negotiating room," said one Israeli official.

"We hope it's a new birth," said one Arab diplomat. "I would be amazed and very disappointed if at the end of four weeks of negotiations there is still no progress."

Israel's former government under hardliner Yitzhak Shamir, as he later admitted in an interview after his June 23 election defeat, had pursued a strategy of dragging the negotiations out so that it could plant more and more Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli delegation this time comes with orders from new Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to strive for quick progress and is expected to table new proposals on Palestinian interim self-rule in the occupied territories early in the negotiations.

The Israeli-Palestinian talks aim to establish "self-rule" for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for an interim five-year period. Talks on the final status of the territories would only begin in the third year.

Israeli sources said the main thrust of their new stance would be a proposal to hold Palestinian elections next spring for a self-government administrative council.

Mr. Shamir's delegation had rejected the idea of such election and proposed municipal elections instead. The sources said Mr. Rabin's delegation was also willing to discuss joint Israeli-Palestinian control over land and water in the territories while Mr. Shamir had insisted on keeping sole control in Israeli hands.

The four separate sets of negotiations were due to resume Monday although there was a possibility of delay because of problems encountered on Friday by the Palestinian delegation in leaving the Israeli-occupied territories.

The focus is clearly on the Israeli-Palestinian talks, though diplomats also expected a new approach from Israel in its discussions with Syria over the occupied Golan Heights. The remaining negotiations between Israel and Lebanon and Jordan were expected to take a back seat.

Despite the optimism, there were still constraints and uncertainties, particularly regarding the role of the United States, the driving force which originally called and pressured the parties to the table.

With President George Bush urgently wooing Jewish voters ahead of the November presidential election, Arabs were deeply suspicious and concerned that Washington might no longer be willing or able to play the part of honest broker.

They were outraged when Mr. Bush recently granted Mr. Rabin \$1.1 billion in loan guarantees earlier this month without securing a complete halt to Israeli settlement.

Mr. Rabin has curbed what he terms "political settlement" but is determined to continue what he regards as "security settlements," particularly in and around Arab East Jerusalem.

"We are not sure if this new rapprochement between Bush and Rabin is a real strategic shift or an election ploy," said one Arab delegate to the negotiations.

"But we were upset that Rabin was promised the loan guarantee money on much easier terms than those offered by Bush to Shamir," he said.

There is also the uncertainty of not knowing who will be in the White House after the Nov. 3 election and the fact that Secretary of State James Baker, who was Arab trust after months of painstaking diplomacy in the region, is now effectively removed from the arena.

## Syria rejects Western plan for 'no-fly zone' in south Iraq

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria said it has rejected plans by its Western allies in the Gulf war to protect Shiite Muslims by stopping Iraqi military planes flying over the marshes of southern Iraq.

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said such a move would be considered by Arabs as "efforts aimed at partitioning Iraq and harming the unity of its people and lands."

Quoted by state-run television late Friday, he said Syria had understood the dangers posed by Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait but had always opposed any action which threatened the territorial integrity of its neighbor.

The United States, Britain and France, all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, are planning a move that they say aim at protecting the Shiites by threatening to shoot down any Iraqi military aircraft that try to fly over the marshes.

The three Western states, allies against Iraq in the war over Kuwait, said their air exclusion zone would help prevent human rights abuses by Iraqi forces attacking Shiite rebels and outlaws who have taken refuge in the marshes.

Syria strongly opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and took part in the U.S.-led multinational force which drove Iraqi troops from the emirate in February last year.

Syria and Iraq, ruled by rival factions of the Baath Party, have been at odds for more than two decades.

"Syria had affirmed on the bilateral and multilateral levels, especially with the countries bordering Iraq, that it is committed to the unity and safeguarding of Iraq's lands and people," the Syrian foreign minister said.

"Syria's policy on this has long been known, particularly since the Gulf war."

Mr. Sharaa said Damascus "believed that any step which might threaten the unity of the Iraqi lands would be unacceptable and of grave concern for us in Syria."

The official Libyan news agency said on Friday that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and other Arab leaders including Egypt's Hosni Mubarak to discuss the Western "no-fly" zone.

Iran, a close ally of Syria, is against any Western military intervention in the Gulf region and has voiced its opposition to the Western allies' plan and any attempt to break up Iraq.

Iraq has appealed to the Arab World to stop the Western move, saying the plan was an attempt to tear the country apart.

"Dangerous threats recently escalated against Iraq by senior U.S. officials aided by their French and British counterparts," Mr. Sharaa said in a message to Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel Meguid.

Mr. Sharaa said the threats were made "under false and fabricated pretexts — namely the oppression of the Shiites in the south exposing them to genocide."

He recalled that the three countries had warned of the imminent use of force against Iraq.

"This dangerous and aggressive attitude... is a preparation for a dangerous military aggression against Iraq's independence, integrity and national unity," he said. "Iraq categorically rejects this... flagrant aggression."

Iraqi Parliament Speaker Saadi

Mehdi Saleh told the official Iraqi News Agency the plan "aims at slicing off southern Iraq below the 32nd Parallel exactly in the same way northern Iraq became a protectorate under American, British and French bayonets."

"If the U.S.-Arab allies agree today to fragment Iraq and Britain from dividing other Arab countries on the basis of ethnic, racial or sectarian differences," he asked.

Baghdad newspapers said Iraqis would fight any attempt to divide the country.

The Iraqi News Agency said the papers described the Western plan as a Zionist plot to split the Arab World into impotent cantons.

The Al Jumhuriya and Al Qadisiya dailies described the latest confrontation with the West as a "battle of fate."

"We are determined that the sacrifice must be that of the faithful souls that aspire to die so that life is given to them," Al Jumhuriya said.

"The American-British-French plot against Iraq is a part of the Zionist plans aiming at the division of Arab countries into conflicting sectarian cantons inhabited by hunger, impotence and ruins," it said.

Al Qadisiya, the Defence Ministry's daily, said U.S. President George Bush, British Prime Minister John Major and French President Francois Mitterrand hoped to use Iraq to deflect attention from domestic problems and enhance their political fortunes.

That would not work, the paper said because the Iraqis, "with their close union to their armed forces... intend to fight all plots of conspiracy..."

## EC Commission boosts aid for Somalis

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission said on Friday it was preparing to send more food and medical aid to Somalia's starving people after EC funds made available last week were committed to a red cross airlift and other relief efforts.

The commission, the European Community (EC) executive, said it would send 40,000 tonnes of food aid on top of 145,000 tonnes already provided this year to the devastated East African state.

A no-fund humanitarian aid package for six million European currency units (ECUs) — \$8.4 million — was also being prepared, the commission said in a statement.

"I think that by the end of next week we will have the six million approved," one EC official added, noting the 12 community member states must endorse the new aid package.

The commission said an urgent shipment of rice and palm oil was already underway through the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) for rural populations most affected by

famine.

The ICRC, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) and private relief groups working in Somalia would distribute the rest of the food aid, it said.

Relief workers estimate 1.5 million people face imminent death by starvation in the war-torn country where big international relief efforts are now underway after the long-brewing disaster finally grabbed the world's attention.

A 145,000-tonne U.N. food airlift for Somalis began late Friday in neighbouring Kenya. EC member states and others have also boosted bilateral humanitarian aid.

EC aid worth four million ECUs (\$5.6 million), finalised by the commission last week, has been allocated to finance an ICRC food airlift and to provide medicines, medical equipment, high protein biscuits and water for the capital Mogadishu.

Diplomats said Britain, current holder of the EC's rotating presidency, was considering how to match the commission's humani-

itarian efforts on behalf of the community with joint EC political action.

They said London was seeking agreement among EC partners to send development ministers from Britain, Portugal and Denmark — representing the last, current and next presidents — on a fact-finding mission to Somalia next month.

Deliveries inside Somalia may be threatened by faction fighters, who have seized up to half the food entering the country and demanded payment to guard the rest.

Somalia has slipped into anarchy since rival clans turned on each other after deposing dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.

Five hundred U.N. troops from Pakistan are due to arrive in the Somali capital Mogadishu soon to protect the docks and airport, and more are likely to be sent.

They will have the right to shoot to self-defence, but as in Bosnia's civil war, questions are being raised on whether they should have a stronger mandate to ensure aid reaches the needy.

## Platforms as varied as candidates for Lebanon poll

BEIRUT (R) — Feudal warlords, businessmen, tribesmen and political novices taking part in Lebanon's general election are offering platforms ranging from finding a cure for AIDS to ridding South Lebanon of Israeli troops.

About 500 candidates have signed up for the elections to the 128-seat parliament set to start on Sunday.

Sons of leading families are heading the campaign, seeking to fill the seat left by their deceased father.

Samir Wehbe from South Lebanon promises to find a vaccine against AIDS and create a new world order.

Dr. Nasser Bahmad and lawyer Zuhair Bahmad pledge not only to destroy

every nuclear reactor in the world and make sewage potable, but also to force Israeli troops out of South Lebanon.

Nasser Bahmad says he will pay \$250 for every vote but his relative is only offering 250 Lebanese pounds (\$0.10).

Kheirredine Tabbara has promised to resuscitate the ailing pound and bring it up from 2,400 to 200 pounds to the dollar.

"The candidates simply wrecked by the civil war. Can you believe such people are going to be representatives of the nation?" said Jamil Audi, a Shiite Muslim. "Such samples are not a good omen... after 16

years of war how can we have such people of poor quality to represent us?" he added.

The candidates all have one thing in common — their unquestioning acceptance of Syria's dominant role in Lebanon.

Christian opposition groups have urged the 700,000 Christians among Lebanon's two million voters to boycott the polls. They want voting held only after Syria withdraws its troops from Beirut and areas surrounding to eastern Lebanon next month.

They fear holding elections now will ensure a pro-Damascus legislature with no real power to bring change.

The election, the first since 1972, will be held in northern

and eastern Lebanon on Sunday, in Beirut and Mount Lebanon on Aug. 30 and in South Lebanon on Sept. 6.

With hours to go, the election bazaar was at its peak. Colourful posters of smiling candidates have replaced the grim pictures of the dead that lined Beirut streets in the civil war.

Space on walls, electricity poles and bridges is at a premium. Candidates have staged nighttime raids to plaster their pictures over their rivals' or simply tear down other posters.

Deputies seeking reelection have visited their villages after years of neglect, asphalted roads, thrown parties and repeated the same

old promises.

Many candidates seem newspaper obituaries and visit bereaved families, presenting condolences and reminding them to vote.

Voting-byte is routine and prices range between \$150 and \$200 in areas where competition is high.

"He who has money will make it and be who doesn't will lose," said Deputy Ali Jaafar, standing in eastern Lebanon.

"This is Lebanon... unfortunately, nothing has changed and nothing will change. It is built on double standards, petty personal interests and turning national elections into business," said Najib Khoury, a government employee.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Yemeni speaker's home attacked

SAANA (R) — An rocket-propelled grenade hit the bedroom of Yemen's parliamentary speaker in the latest attack against an official from former South Yemen, a security source in the capital Sanaa said on Friday.

Yasser Said No'man, a member of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), and his family were out of the house at the time of the attack on Thursday evening and no-one was hurt, the source added. Police had arrested a number of suspects who were being questioned, the source said. The YSP ruled South Yemen until it merged with the North in May 1990. Parliament passed a new law a week ago modernising the educational system in Yemen. Muslim fundamentalists, mostly representing tribes from the former conservative North, accused President Ali Abdullah Saleh of not keeping a promise to oppose the law and of creating a "secular lobby". Several members of the Aden-based YSP have recently been targets of similar attacks, mostly in the north of the country.

### Nathan plans Somali aid project

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan said Friday he hoped to set up a camp for Somali refugees in Kenya with money from Israeli and American Jews.

"We are asking for donations from Israelis and American Jewish groups because we think Jews, because of our past, should always be the first to give in humanitarian crises," he told Reuters.

He said the privately-funded camp would provide food and shelter for 40,000 refugees from Somalia's civil war. Once built, it would be handed over to one of the humanitarian organisations. "I don't want to compete with the Red Cross or the U.N.," he said. Israel does not have diplomatic relations with Somalia. The 65-year-old Israeli peace campaigner was released from jail earlier this year after serving a second term for meeting members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in defiance of an Israeli law banning contact with the group. Mr. Nathan, who runs the offshore radio station "Voice of Peace", went on a 40-day hunger strike in protest against the law in 1991.

### Turkey lifts curfew in Sirnak

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has partially lifted a curfew placed on the southeastern town of Sirnak after fighting between rebel Kurds and security forces, state television said. The television said residents were allowed to move freely again between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. and shops had begun to reopen. Security forces imposed the curfew early

### Turkish team leaves for Armenia

oo Wednesday. Turkish radio said 362 people had been detained after a house-to-house search in Sirnak, a stronghold of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). It said 14 people, including three soldiers, a policeman and four civilians, had been killed since Tuesday, when PKK guerrillas attacked police and gendarmerie headquarters and government buildings with rockets and mortar bombs. More than 4,400 people have been killed in the southeast since the PKK's separatist campaign began eight years ago.

### OSLO (R) — British author Salman Rushdie, seeking pressure on Iran to lift a 1989 death order against him, said on Thursday he hoped to write a book about his life in hiding. On a surprise visit to Norway Mr. Rushdie said in a late night interview on national NRK television that security experts believe the threat to his life was as great as ever. Yet while saying that he had suffered great personal difficulties and sadness, he added that "I'm not the first writer to be persecuted. If it gives me a chance to talk about hugely important values, it's a privilege. When you face an issue of life or death, it makes you see what's important. You cut away all the flippery of life. It clarifies you." He also said he probably had more friends now than in 1989. He said governments should show they cared for freedom of expression by increasing pressure on Iran to drop a 1989 death order issued against him by Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. "I've kept a journal in rough form about everything that's happened and when I can tell the story I look forward to writing about it," he said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:30 Michael Vaillani

17:50 Des Chiffres et des lettres

18:10 La Chance Aux Chansons

19:00 News French

19:15 Magazine E.M6

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:30 News in Arabic

20:30 Wings

21:10 "Inside the Red"

21:30 News in English

22:30 Midnight Caller

**PRAYER TIMES**

06:27 Fajr

06:50 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

12:30 Dhuhr

16:17 Asr

19:17 Maghrib

20:30 Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifchib Tel. 610740

Annabiles of God Church, Tel. 632765

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

37:40, De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Ternavans Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 752261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 717751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685264

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 16 / 28

Aqaba 24 / 36

Deserts 15 / 33

Jordan Valley 22 / 35

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37, Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:

Dr. Muhammad Al Sawwa 732056

Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070

Dr. Subhi Tamous 898030

Dr. Abdul Qader Lala 690485

First pharmacy 651912

Fordons pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637025

Nairookh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

BRID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Baker 274699

Al Sharaa pharmacy 275825

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Agrabawi 987725

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 651111

Civil Defence Immediate 651111

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 752221

Blood Bank 643402

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 639800

Police Complaints 651176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Rhodon Television 771111

Radio Jordan 771111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Al-Badr, J. Amn 644412

Jabal Amman Maternity 623262

Malika, J. Amn 636140

Palestine, Shamsi 664174

Shamsi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 645943

Al-Mushtak Hospital 667229

The Islamic, Abdull 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdull 664146

Italian, Al-Muhad 777101/3

Al-Badr, J. Amn 751112/6

Azmy, Marfa 801615

Queen Alia Hospital 622405/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963322

Zarqa National Hospital (09)902640

Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (09)966732

Al Shima Modern Hospital (09)990990

BRID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Green Catholic Hospital (02)272225

Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)247100

ROSE:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

16:00 Jeddah (RJ)

16:10 Larnaca (RJ)

16:30 Muscat, Aqaba (RJ)

16:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

16:55 Damascus (RJ)

16:55 Madinet, Malta (RJ)

16:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

17:00 Madrid (RJ)

17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:05 Cairo (RJ)

17:10 Rome (RJ)

17:15 Athens (RJ)

17:20 London (RJ)

17:25 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

17:30 Athens (RJ)

17:35 Bangkok (RJ)

17:40 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)

17:45 Riyadh (RJ)

17:50 Seoul (RJ)

17:55 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

06:30 Madrid (RJ)

06:35 Brussels (RJ)

06:40 New Delhi (RJ)

06:45 Damascus (RJ)

06:50 Agaba (RJ)

06:55 Frankfurt (RJ)

07:00 Athens (RJ)

07:05 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

07:10 Rome (RJ)

07:15 Vienna (RJ)

07:20 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

07:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

07:30 Athens (RJ)

07:35 Cairo (RJ)

07:40 Riyadh (RJ)

07:45 Jeddah (RJ)

07:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

07:55 New Delhi (RJ)

08:00 Bangkok (RJ)

08:05 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)

08:10 Riyadh (RJ)

08:15 Seoul (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

12:30 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)

14:40 Moscow (SU)

16:55 Larnaca (CY)

18:30 Cairo (MS)

18:35 Beirut (ME)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

18:00 Beirut, Rome (AZ)

18:40 Doha, Bahrain (GF)

16:40 Moscow (SU)

17:45 Larnaca (CY)

21:35 Cairo (MS)

**MARKET PRICES**

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (red) 550 / 320

Banana 300 / 450

Banana (Mukzama) 550 / 300

Beans 480 / 300

Cabbage 90 / 50

Carrot 250 / 200

Cauliflower 150 / 100

Cucumber (large) 120 / 80

Cucumbers (small) 130 / 100

Eggplant 50 / 30

Garlic 550 / 450

Lebanese 600 / 500

Micro (large) 150 / 100

Micro (small) 120 / 80

Onion (dry) 130 / 90

Onion (green) 150 / 100

Potatoes 600 / 500

Pepper (hot) 600 / 300

Pepper (sweet) 250 / 180

Potato 150 / 100

Sweet Melon 180 / 120

Tomato 60 / 30

Watermelon 60 / 20



## Jordanians condemn allies' move against Iraq as 'dangerous crime'

AMMAN (Petra) — The current drive by Western nations to create an air exclusion zone in southern Iraq came under strong criticism, by prominent Jordanian politicians, lawyers and parliament members who described the move as "a dangerous encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty."

"Such move carries with it evil intentions which are bound to spill over to other Arab states. It constitutes a flagrant violation of Iraq's national sovereignty and territorial integrity," they said.

They demanded that the whole Arab Nation confront what they described as "crime" perpetrated by the United States, France and Britain in concert with world Zionism. They said the move is designed to fragment the Arab World into mini-states.

Member of Parliament and former prime minister Taher Al Masri said the Western powers are trying to find pretexts to justify a dangerous act which is bound to have serious consequences on the whole region.

"The British government was the first to adopt the idea of an air exclusion zone over Iraq. This came as no surprise to us because it was Britain which has paved the ground for the creation of the Jewish state in the heart of the Arab World," said Mr. Masri.

He said that dividing the Arab World into mini-states and cantons has always been sought by Britain with the aim of fragmenting the nation.

Mr. Masri voiced his strong condemnation of the Arab countries which are silent about this conspiracy, expressing fear that

other Arab states would be subject to similar plots.

"Should this conspiracy be implemented, no Arab country would escape the plots of the West in the future," Mr. Masri said.

"Dignity Issa Midanat described the 'Western powers' act as a violation of Iraq's national sovereignty and a move that runs contrary to international legitimacy and the charter of the United Nations of which Iraq is a member.

Mr. Midanat called on all nations to confront "the Western illegal and hostile moves." He said the world community would be giving the U.S. and its NATO allies, the green light to take similar measures against Arab and non-Arab countries whose policies do not conform to their desires if it condones the move against Iraq.

Parliament Member Abdul Rahim Ekour said "the U.S. and its allies seem to be determined to impose on us the way of life they desire and if we do not conform to their will, they can destroy our economy and bring down our governments."

According to lawyer Saleiman Hadidi, any decision taken by the Western powers to ban Iraq from using its own air space to fly its own aircraft is considered an encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty and is tantamount to a new aggression on the Arab state.

Mr. Hadidi, a former president of the bar association, said that the Western move amounts to a new conspiracy aimed at parti-

tioning Iraq into ethnic minorities. "This move is totally opposed by the Arab world," he said.

Lawyer Ibrahim Bakr expressed belief that the U.N. Security Council would not permit the U.S. and its allies to impose the air exclusion zone in Iraq or give them a green light to partition the country.

Mr. Bakr appealed to the Arabs to abort the new crime being committed by the three western powers against Iraq and paid tribute to the "heroic steadfastness of the Iraqi people."

Dr. Ghassan Al Jundi, a professor of international law at the University of Jordan criticised Arab states which "are overlooking the question of providing humanitarian assistance to victims of wars and natural disasters as called for by U.N. General Assembly in 1989 and are instead, helping the Americans achieve their objectives."

Dr. Jundi said that providing assistance and relief to the victims does not mean creating security zones.

Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) Saturday issued a statement condemning what it called "the American, French and British conspiracy against the Iraqi people."

The party called on the Arab people, the Arab League and the international community to "confront this conspiracy which aims at partitioning not only Iraq but the whole Arab world in a way that would serve the interests of imperial powers."

## Journalists to stage sit-in to protest draft press law

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Jordanian journalists will stage a sit-in in front of Parliament Sunday to protest article two of the draft press and publication law which excludes journalists who are not members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) from the profession.

About 30 Jordanian journalists, who do not belong to JPA, have voiced their rejection of article two as amended and approved by the Lower House of Parliament.

At a meeting at the Jordan Times Saturday, the journalists said "confining the definition of journalists to members of the JPA is a grave mistake."

"The law makes it obligatory for journalists to join the association, or they would not be recognised as journalists. This is unconstitutional," one journalist told the Jordan Times.

The journalists said the JPA law contains numerous obstacles that prevent members of the profession from joining the association, charging that there is "a tendency for monopolising and restricting membership to the association."

The journalists decided to form a follow-up committee to lobby members of the Lower and Upper Houses to reverse their definition of journalists. They also decided to exert pressure on Parliamentarians and other concerned officials to remove the many obstacles to the freedom of the press that the draft law includes.

## Jordan resumes talks with London Club; agreement on debt payment expected

By P.V.Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the London Club of commercial creditors will open a new round of talks Monday in what could be a breakthrough on rescheduling the Kingdom's commercial debts after three years of fruitless negotiations.

Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh left for London Saturday heading the Jordanian delegation to the talks. The delegation includes Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi and Finance Ministry Counsellor Mohammad Mukhtar.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Mr. Jaraneh as saying the talks would aim at "preparing the ground for reducing the value of Jordan's commercial debts estimated at \$1.2 billion."

It was believed that the new round of talks with the London Club was scheduled after a steering committee representing the creditors drew up a new proposal involving debt buy-back, debt conversion and rescheduling arrangements. An earlier London Club proposal was rejected by Jordan which considered the terms unacceptable.

In comments carried in the local press Saturday, Dr. Nabulsi implied that Jordan had reached agreement with the London Club, but the CBJ governor did not provide any details.

The London meeting will

"focus on the various options offered and hopefully would lead to an agreement," said economist Faded Faneh.

Senior officials have said that the Kingdom is pursuing a multi-pronged approach to its foreign debts. In addition to rescheduling, it is seeking debt buy-backs at discounted rates, conversion of debts either into investments in Jordan or into non-convertible Jordanian dinars.

Jordan has reached rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club of governments on payments, principal and interest, in arrears as well as by mid-1993, but according with the London Club of commercial banks was elusive since mid-1989.

The main problem in the negotiations with the London Club was unacceptable terms offered by the commercial creditors. The Gulf crisis blocked all negotiations during 1990 and 1991.

Jordan's total foreign debts stand at around \$7 billion, of which \$1.2 billion is owed to commercial banks, and the rest distributed among foreign governments and Arab and international agencies.

In his published comments Saturday, Dr. Nabulsi expressed hope that Jordan would be able to reach agreements with creditors not included in the London or Paris Clubs on rescheduling its debts on the same terms and conditions agreed with the two institutions or on debt buy-backs at discounted rates.

Jordan has secured a highly favourable agreement with the



Basel Jaraneh



Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi

Paris Club; all arrears in principal and 50 per cent of the interest due until mid-1993 have been rescheduled for a period of up to 15 to 20 years.

The London Club, whose steering committee negotiating with Jordan is headed by the Standard Chartered Bank, is resisting long-term rescheduling, according to international experts.

"Instead, it would prefer to have a one-time settlement, which could include discounted rates, conversions and investments, depending upon the choice of individual members of the group," said a diplomatic source.

Agreements with the Paris and London clubs have to be followed up and formalised with bilateral agreements with the individual creditors.

Dr. Nabulsi has expressed con-

fidence that Jordan would be able to secure agreements by 1994/95 on all payments due to the Paris Club as well as rescheduling or other arrangements with other creditors, including buy-backs and conversions.

Another major creditor is the former Soviet Union, which is owed \$750 million. Agreement in principle was reached three months ago on repaying the amount partly in cash and partly in Jordanian goods and services, but a formal agreement has not been signed.

A delegation representing Russia, which inherited the Soviet commercial legacy after the collapse of the union, was due to visit Jordan in July to sign a formal accord. The visit did not take place and officials as well as diplomatic sources say they do not know when the agreement could be formalised.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### GUVS president to review progress in building cancer centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Executive President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib will hold a press conference on Monday to outline the latest developments in the construction of Al Amal National Cancer Centre. Dr. Khatib will also talk about preparations underway to launch week-long activities in support of the centre, which is being set up near the Jordan University Hospital in Amman. Dr. Khatib Friday appealed to Jordanian organisations and citizens to help finance the construction of the centre, urging all people to help contribute to this humanitarian effort through their participation in the activities and through generous donations. The project, which is expected to cost JD 8 million, is undertaken by GUVS, and contributions are coming from organisations in Jordan and abroad.

#### Ensour leaves for Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour leaves Sunday for Turkey to attend the inauguration ceremony of Izmir International Fair, due to open Wednesday. Dr. Ensour will open the Jordanian pavilion at the fair.

#### JTE, Television Corporation discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation between the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) and Jordan Radio and Television Corporation was the main issue under discussion at a meeting between the corporation Director General Radhi Alkhas and JEA President Husni Ahn Ghaida Saturday. Mr. Alkhas stressed the importance of the engineers' role in spreading awareness among citizens of the need to rationalise consumption in their daily life. He said the Radio and Television Corporation is ready to cooperate with any establishment that serves citizens, particularly in terms of providing them with the basic needs of daily life. Mr. Ahn Ghaida reviewed the JEA role in serving citizens and utilising its capabilities and expertise to achieve this goal.

#### Development bank grants new loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) Board of Directors has approved extending loans to several local municipal councils in the Kingdom. The JD 1,200,000 loans will be used in constructing new roads as well as carrying out services projects in rural areas. Sources at the bank said the bank has granted JD 7.5 million in loans to local municipal councils since the beginning of the year.

#### House resumes debates on draft press law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will Sunday resume discussion of the 1991 press and publications draft law in a session chaired by its Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat. The session will start at 5 p.m., and will be attended by cabinet members.

#### Arab youth visit Mu'ta University

KARAK (Petra) — Participants in a pan-Arab youth camp currently held at Al Hussein Youth camp in Ajloun Saturday visited Karak governorate where they met with the Mu'ta University acting president. The acting president briefed the youth on the establishment, role and achievements of the university as well as its future plans. He also briefed the visiting youth on standards followed in admitting students to the military and civilian branches of the university and its academic and military training programmes. The youth then toured the university's various facilities and visited the tombs of Prophet Mohammad's companions in the governorate. A total of 170 youths from 15 Arab states are participating in the camp, which was opened Aug. 12.

## ADC urges Vatican not to recognise Israel before fulfillment of Palestinian rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has voiced concern over the Vatican's moves to normalise relations with Israel and urged His Holiness the Pope not to take such a move before implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and the fulfillment of the rights of Palestinian people.

In a message addressed to the Pope in Rome (ADC) Regional Director Nidal Sukhtian said "We rightfully feel obliged to present our concerns before your Holiness' prudent judgement. Upholding duty of discretion and permission from your Holiness, we gratefully beseech your public response with regard to this issue and the people who are affected by our decision."

Mr. Sukhtian said that his organisation predicts that normalising relations between the Vatican and Israel could "reflect to the Western world that the present Israel Jewish state is Biblical Israel which, according to ancient biblical prophecies, would extend from the Euphrates to the Nile with Jerusalem as its capital."

He said that if relations with

Israel are normalised without proper elucidation, the ADC believes that the Christian churches and other international organisations would interpret the move as an open Vatican sponsorship of the view inherent in the ancient biblical Israel.

He said that "it should be noted that all prophecies concerning biblical Israel were fulfilled during the era of the old testament and we are now living in the era of the new testament."

"Unless your Holiness made it explicit and public that the state of Israel cannot exist at the expense of the other peoples of the region before and during the ceremonies and the protocols of normalisation, the world churches would interpret the move in terms of Israel's claims," the message added.

He said "we are painfully concerned that your Holiness would normalise relations with Israel without defined borders, those borders that were implied in U.N. resolutions 242 and 338."

He urged the Pope to state clearly that Jerusalem would not be recognised as the capital of Israel and demanded that Israel withdraw its forces from all the

occupied Arab territories including the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem.

The message expressed ADC's deep concern that the Vatican's decision to normalise relations with Israel would be a denial of the Palestinian people's rights to a defined and secure homeland.

Mr. Sukhtian said that though ADC respects the Vatican's decision to recognise political Israel, it was requesting that it consider Israel's campaign to demolish churches and the continued decrease of the Christian population in the occupied lands.

Meanwhile, the ADC paid tribute to Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah for his statement published in Ad Dastour Arabic daily on Aug. 21.

In the statement the patriarch had noted that his Holiness John Paul II has expressed deep concern over and support for the rights of the Palestinian people.

The patriarch said that it was regrettable that the Pope's views and official stands were not referred to by concerned Arab parties despite the fact that these views were conveyed to the ambassador of the Middle East countries in Rome.

## TCC makes special arrangement to help customers pay due bills

KARAK (J.T.) — Minister of Posts and Communications Jamal Al Saraireh announced here Saturday that the majority of telephone customers whose services were partially cut due to failure to pay their dues are now paying, but the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is making arrangements for others to enable them to pay dues in a manner that best suits their financial situation.

Service was partially cut to 18,000 subscribers in the capital earlier this month. The TCC normally partially disconnects services to its customers who fail to pay their bills before totally cutting their telephone lines.



Jamal Saraireh

The minister said the process of cutting subscribers' telephone lines for failure to pay dues will continue on a regular basis in order to ensure that the TCC retrieves the cost of its services to the public.

TCC this month announced a new plan for improving its services to the public.

According to the plan, which takes effect on Sept. 1, applicants

TCC's ambitions of expanding services to all regions requires the installation of new telephone exchanges and new networks plus further technical facilities which, if made available, can boost telephone services to all regions," Mr. Saraireh told a training course for ministry employees in Karak.

In the week-long training course, the participants will listen to lectures and receive practical work helping them to offer better services to the public.

The 120 participants are all TCC and Post Office employees in the south of the country.

According to TCC Director Ahmad Nawawi the corporation provides telephone services to 275,000 subscribers, while its semi-automated network serves 10,000 citizens.

Mr. Nawawi recently said that the corporation needs to increase its network capacity by 280,000 lines by 2010 to meet the projected demand on telephone services.



BEAUTIFUL SCENES FROM AMMAN: An exhibition of water colour paintings by Salam Kansan is currently being held at Al Bisharat House in Umm Al Kusum village, near the Arabian Horse Club. The paintings depict beautiful scenes from Amman and other places in Jordan. The artist, who is a graduate from Yarmouk University and is pursuing his higher studies in Paris, said that he does not have the inspiration to paint while in Paris. "I can do this only when I am travelling in Jordan. When I am in Paris, I miss this opportunity," says Mr. Kansan. His exhibition at Al Bisharat House runs through Tuesday.

## 'Exploring science' on the move

AMMAN (J.T.) — Exploring Science exhibition, which has been held at the British Council in Amman for the past four weeks, is on the move.

On Monday, it will be officially opened at its new venue, the Fatmeh Al Zahra Comprehensive School for Girls in Irbid.

Over the past four weeks in Amman, the exhibition has attracted over 10,000 visitors. The response to it has been very enthusiastic, with many people coming back time and time again.

"I think that it is fantastic. I've never seen anything like it before," one visitor wrote in the visitors book.

"Very interesting, educational and fun," another visitor said.

The British Council and the Ministry of Education are very keen that people all over Jordan can have a chance to visit the exhibition, and for this reason they are taking it to other cities, a press release by the British Council said.

The exhibition will be open in Irbid from Aug. 24 - Sept. 2, and then in Karak at (Al Hussein Vocational School) from Sept. 7-16.

## Indian minister arrives in Jordan for talks on bilateral ties, peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — India's Foreign Minister Eduardo Valeiro is due in Amman Sunday on a two-day official visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber on Jordanian-Indian relations and developments in Asia and world affairs.

According to Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Indian minister will also hold talks with other Jordanian officials on issues of common concern.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the talks will focus on the coming non-aligned summit meeting due to open in Jakarta, Indonesia, next month, and the prospect of India playing an effective role in helping to establish peace in the Middle East region through diplomatic channels.

The Foreign Ministry said Mr. Valeiro and his accompanying

delegation, who will arrive here from Damascus, are making the visit to enhance joint cooperation in easing regional tensions in the Middle East and in southern Asia.

The ministry official described Indian-Jordanian relations as "excellent and progressing in all fields," particularly in economic and social spheres, and in promoting North-South dialogue.

The official said that Jordan and India are linked through very strong economic relations. India is the main importer of Jordanian phosphates and fertilizers and it sells Jordan an assortment of foodstuffs and meat in addition to electrical appliances.

He said that the trade balance between the two countries is heavily in favour of Jordan.

Jordan last year sold India \$161 million worth of goods and imported \$80 million worth of Indian goods.

In addition, he said, Indian universities currently offer higher education to at least 5000 Jordanian students.

Last April, Jordan and India concluded a round of talks on economic cooperation with an agreement to increase trade. The bi-annual meeting of a Joint Jordanian-Indian Committee reviewed bilateral cooperation and trade and agreed that both sides will increase the imports of products from each other.

On the eve of his visit to Jordan, the Indian minister said that his country is committed to support a Middle East peace process based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

He told Tisrin newspaper in Damascus that India calls for the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including the right to self-determination and the end of Israel's occupation of Arab land.

## Seminar on livestock focuses on future strategies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Saturday organised a seminar at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman to assess the importance of employing statistical information in promoting the livestock wealth of Jordan, and progress in a related project financed by Germany.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Fathi Kilani, director of Veterinary Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that thanks to assistance received from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Jordan is the first country in the Middle East and the developing nations to have adopted a statistical system in its efforts to promote livestock

wealth.

Ministry Secretary General Ghaleb Abu Arrahbi told the meeting that statistics constitutes an important element in the process of scientific and technological progress. Accurate figures and information can contribute towards genuine development of the agricultural sector in general and the boosting of the country's livestock wealth in particular.

The Ministry of Agriculture seeks to raise standards and improve the efficiency of its personnel so as to promote agricultural production, he said.

According to ministry sources, the GTZ has been providing technical assistance, expertise and other forms of help to the minis-

try, particularly in detecting diseases among the animals and in promoting the veterinary services in Jordan in general.

In addition, GTZ has been dispatching Jordan's working for the Ministry of Agriculture to Germany to acquire further expertise and training in a bid to help promote the livestock wealth in the Kingdom, said the officials.

The Department of Statistics took part in organising the meeting which was attended by a group of veterinarians and agricultural engineers. A ministry official said that discussions centred on drawing up strategies and the most effective means of utilising available resources.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Salam Kansan at Al Bisharat House in Umm Al Kusum village, near the Arabian Horse Club.
- ★ Art exhibition by Lebanese artist Basma Boudi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Grace Ghannoun Khleif at the Royal Cultural Centre.

**Jordan Times**  
Tel. 677171



## Jordan Times

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## Pluralism on the move

NOW THAT the law on political parties has cleared Parliament and the next general elections are less than a year away, the people of Jordan have a new opportunity to cement their political freedoms on the basis of a multi-party democracy. In the 1989 parliamentary elections, there were no political parties as such and Jordanians had very little choice, in the way of solid platforms, when voting for their representatives. The absence of organised and recognised political parties was thus a major shortcoming that deprived the last polls of much meaning and validity. Now at long last the flaws of the 1989 elections have been effectively rectified even though the just adopted new legislation on the formation of political parties leaves much to be desired. This leads us to believe that the rest of the responsibility to make the impending summer elections in 1993 a success falls squarely on our electorate and naturally also on the founders of the various political parties. There is no more acceptable excuses for the democratic forces to rely on for any poor showing in future elections. The moderate factions that form the backbone of the political mainstream in the country have to prepare themselves for the next round of elections as of now by pooling their resources and constituencies together in order for them to have an opportunity for playing the centrist role that is expected of them. Given the fact that the moderates in Jordan are the least organised, the responsibility to start the process of institutional organisation is something that needs to be taken very seriously.

In the wake of the adoption of the new law it is expected that several political parties will surface. Some are more advanced than others in the articulation and elucidation of their respective political platforms. By and large, the National Charter that was adopted in 1991 does not seem to figure very highly in the process of establishing political parties. It so happens that this national pact forms the basis for Jordanian democracy on which the centrist forces can galvanise their campaign efforts. It is therefore timely that the charter and its contents be revitalised for the purpose of winning wider public support for its principles and ideals. Again all the forces in the country that champion multi-party democracy have the most to gain from putting the charter in the forefront of the process leading to the creation of political parties in the Kingdom. There is no time to lose and time is propitious for all political currents in the country to elucidate their platforms on an institutional basis so that the people would have a clear way on which to cast their ballots next time they visit their voting booths.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday commented on the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington and said that three factors are required to ensure success. First, there can be no question of imposing the Camp David formula on the Arabs who are determined to reject such solution that can achieve nothing for them, said the paper. Second, the Israeli leaders should prove in word and deed that they respect U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and are willing to implement them as the prime basis for the negotiations with the Arabs; and third, the Israelis should put an end to their repressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories so as to create an opportune climate for the success of the peace talks, said the daily. The paper said that it would not be reasonable for the Arabs to see their kinsmen killed and tortured by the Israelis and for the Palestinian delegation to pursue efforts aimed at reaching peace with the Israelis as long as the atrocities continue in the occupied lands. It said that U.N. resolutions, which call for the exchange of land for peace, should be upheld by the Israeli leadership if it is really intent on reaching peace with the Arabs. The paper reiterated the collective stand vis-a-vis the negotiations on the part of the Arab parties that met in Damascus, stressing that the Arabs are genuinely oriented towards peace and hope to see the other side committed to it. To ensure real success for the new round of talks in Washington, said the paper, it is incumbent upon the United States, as the sponsor of the talks, to manifest renewed determination to bring the talks to a satisfactory conclusion.

TAREQ MASARWEH, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, strongly criticised the Western powers' attitude towards the plight of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina who are now the victims of flagrant aggression from Serbia. Had the aggression on this people been an Arab or a Muslim nation, Washington, London and Paris would have massed their forces and launched an aggression on it, under the pretext of protecting the victims of aggression, said the writer. He said that the Muslim nations, together with a group of Arab countries, were instrumental in preparing the atmosphere for and giving support to the U.S.-led aggression launched on Iraq for its occupation of Kuwait, but they are failing to do anything vis-a-vis the situation in Bosnia. These Islamic countries and Arab states continue to support U.S.-led campaigns for starving the Iraqi people and maintaining sanctions on Iraq; but they keep quiet about the Western nations' attitude towards the Serbs who are committing atrocities against Muslims, continued the writer. He said that it is a shame for Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Algeria and Yemen to go along with the other Arab and Muslim nations in their failure to come to the aid of the victims of Serbian aggression while accepting the sanctions imposed on Iraq. The writer urged the Jordanian foreign minister to instruct Jordan's U.N. ambassador to expose this dangerous game at the United Nations Organisation.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Investment policies of the social security

The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is in control of huge financial resources and investments estimated to be in the neighbourhood of JD 500 million. Thus SSC has become, by far, the most important single instrument of investment in the country. The policies adopted by the corporation are therefore of utmost importance, not only for the hundreds of thousands of wage earners covered by its insurance umbrella, but also for the economy at large.

What then is the investment philosophy that should be applied by the corporation, and what factors should be taken into account upon making decisions to invest its huge cash balance one way or another?

In the first stage of rapid growth, starting with the establishment of the corporation, and until it reaches the stage of maturity, i.e., the near balance between receipts and disbursements, the major motive is naturally the highest return, not the liquidity. The reason is that all payments that the corporation may have to make can be funded by part of its current receipts. There is no need to liquidate investments or sell fixed assets in order to raise the needed cash with which to meet its obligations. Therefore, on the point of maturity is reached at one point in the future, the priority should be given to the best return possible, either in the form of current yield such as interest, profits, and rents, or the form of capital gain, i.e., an increase in value. In order to neutralise inflation and protect the real value of its investments from gradual erosion, it is crucial for the corporation to remain solvent and be able to face growing future obligations, which will get higher and higher by the year, due to inflation and the

accompanying increase in wages and salaries upon which the final entitlements of the retirees will be based.

It is therefore imperative to pay special attention to real assets, such as hotels, industrial companies and real estate. It is also advisable to maintain part of the extra liquidity in foreign exchange as one way of diversification of investment portfolio, even if this step needed certain amendments in the laws and regulations that govern the corporation's investment practices.

Diversification of investments is a policy that cannot be overemphasised. Risks must be distributed among various sectors and categories of instruments in accordance with a flexible formula that the board of directors of SSC can set at various times as guidelines for the management.

In order to avoid rigidity, the ratios of various categories of investments should be allowed to fluctuate between a minimum floor and a maximum ceiling. Management should always be allowed to move, within a set margin, in response to changing circumstances and to opportunities that become available once in a while.

Although the investment policy of the Social Security Corporation should follow scientific methods in a business-like fashion, with the objective of achieving the best possible return on the short and long terms, yet its very nature, as a public corporation dictates upon the board to accommodate the most urgent needs of the national economy as a whole.

The corporation has a direct self interest in the growth of the national economy, the increase of production and exports, earning foreign exchange and similar economic considerations

that are not normally of interest to a private outfit. Therefore, the corporation, without sacrificing the commercial considerations, must pay special attention to support policies and projects adopted by the government as an engine of growth and success while remaining fully independent in making the proper decisions that make sense from an investment point of view. Such activity includes financing feasible projects that other corporations and governmental divisions hesitate to initiate due to lack of funds. A good example is the expansion of communications facilities contemplated by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

The general guidelines for investment policies are of the utmost importance at the macro level, but the day to day decisions, upon making a choice to pick up a specific investment at the micro level, is equally important. This calls for a thorough study of the state of affairs of the particular project concerned, its feasibility, and the projections of its cash flow. The expertise needed in this endeavour should have the overview of the Jordanian economy and its trends in general, with good understanding of how trends are likely to develop in the future. The investment analyst of the SSC should be futuristic and keep ahead of developments.

Investment policy of the Social Security Corporation does not end by making the right choices of investment in the right projects. Equally important is the ability to get rid of the failing investments or investments that are bound to fail, ahead of time. Unloading deteriorating investments and potential failures needs a close follow up of the financial performance of the projects with which SSC holds a stake, and good knowledge of its future potential. The corporation is not only required to maximise gains, it has also to minimise losses.

# Casus belli or a case of acute reelection itch?

By G.H. Jansen

TUESDAY, Aug. 11, should go down as a supremely important date in the history of contemporary affairs, for on that day the Third World gave the first sign, in the Security Council, that it was not prepared to accept the dictates of the new world order of the one world power, the U.S., at least on one particularly important issue.

Having tried and failed to create a casus belli out of Iraq's refusal to allow weapons inspectors to enter the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad, the U.S. began to develop a crisis over one other item in the buffet of Iraqi violations that Washington has laid out on the table of the U.N., such as: The return of Kuwaiti detainees, the U.N. delineated Kuwait-Iraq border, official permission for the continued presence in Iraq of hundreds of U.N. personnel, and, the case in point, alleged human rights abuses against the Shiites of south Iraq, especially those in the area of the marshes north and west of Basra.

The U.S. and its Western hegemons, Britain and France, called an "emergency" meeting of the Security Council for Aug. 11 to consider that last item. In the Western media it was extensively and confidently predicted that the council would not only reiterate its Resolution 688 of April 1991 which called on Iraq not to repress its minorities — at that time the Kurds and currently the Shiites — but would additionally authorise the use of force against Iraq in the near future. Nine delegates spoke, all criticising Iraq.

Yet in the event, the "emergency" session, most unusually, ended in a vacuous silence: without a resolution, without a vote, without even a consensus statement by the chairman.

And this refusal to do the bidding of the U.S. was due to the refusal of China, a permanent member with a veto, and of India to go any further than 688, on which they had abstained in 1991; in that vote three other members, Cuba, Yemen and Zimbabwe, had abstained so 688 was passed by a slender margin.

And that attitude, in turn, was due to the realisation that the Western powers in the U.N. were telling Iraq how to treat its minorities violated the sanctity of "domestic jurisdiction" hitherto assured by Chapter Two, paragraph seven, of the U.N. Charter.

For the West the Kurds and Shiites are martyrs who had to be protected against a bullying central government, while for the Third World they are armed rebels whose rebellion has been fomented, encouraged, armed and paid for from abroad. And very few Third World countries do not face the reality or the threat of such rebellions.

So out of sheer self-interest and self-protection the Third World members of the Security Council said, "No," on Aug. 11 and the U.S.-led West quietly and prudently backed away.

A further reason for Third World coolness was the recognition that the protect-the-Shiites crisis was simply a pretext for hitting Iraq again and was as phoney and contrived and artificial a crisis as the alleged "threat" to Saudi Ara-

bia posed by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The Third World members of the council had no great trouble in seeing through the contrived artificiality of the crisis because this was revealed in several ways. The poignancy and urgency of the Shiites' situation was to have been highlighted by a report presented to the council, on the

invitation of the Western powers, by a Dutch human rights representative, Max van der Stoep. At the outset, and as a first sign of rebellion, India, China, Zimbabwe and Ecuador objected to that invitation since, they said, the main purpose of the Security Council was security and peace not human rights.

And there was further deflation of the report when it was revealed that Mr. Van der Stoep had not visited the area of the marshes not because he was stopped by the Iraqis but because "he had no time." Also his report dated back to February, with subsequent updates. All this clearly indicated that the plight of the

Shiites was not a matter of desperate urgency calling for prompt armed action.

The urgency was further deflated when the Peotagoos spokesman admitted that the Iraqis had made no attacks on the Shia rebels for a month, for the last time on July 23 to be precise.

The British prime minister has accused Iraq of committing genocide against the Shiites. This is monstrous mendacity even for a professional politician, a truly genocidal onslaught on the truth. There are seven or eight million Shiites in Iraq but there are probably only about 100,000 Shiites in all in the marsh area, of all categories. These include the indigenous marsh Arabs, army deserters and fugitive criminals and Shiite refugees from the rebellion. It is this small number that the coalition airforces would go in to protect. But the other million upon million in south Iraq have been leading their normal daily lives, as visitors to Iraq's second city have testified. And certainly the tens of thousands of Shiites this correspondent saw, in April, worshipping and going about their business in Karbala and the surrounding area did not look like victims of genocide in need of aerial protection.

It was the British who announced that the "no-fly zone" would cover the whole of southern Iraq, south of the 32nd Parallel (the British are making the running on this issue just as they did earlier

with the Kurds). This huge expansion — the marsh area covers 9,600 square kilometres while the exclusion zone is 86,400 square kilometres in extent — proves that the real purpose is not Shiite-protection but Saddam humiliation, possibly leading to his overthrow. In short, the largest number of Iraqis should see the Western overflights to maximise the humiliating effect.

Ever since the Shiite crisis developed the Western media has suddenly discovered that the marsh Arabs are leading an immortal and idyllic way of life, which the Iraqis are trying to destroy. A careful reading of books on these people, even the highly romanticised accounts of British travellers Wilfred Thesiger and Gavin Young, reveals that this way of life is, in fact, in the words of Thomas Hobbes about the "natural life," "isolated, poor, nasty, brutish and short" and this largely thanks to malaria which is endemic in the marshy terrain.

The persistence with which the U.S. is producing one casus belli after another against Iraq — the Kuwait border issue will probably be trotted out if the present Shiite-protection play fails — amounts to overkill and is leading to indignation fatigue in much of the rest of the world, not least in the neighbouring Arab countries which are not joining in this campaign as they did in "Desert Storm." Obviously this American persistence is directly linked to Bush's election campaign.



M. KAHIL

# Allies ready to run new risks to topple Saddam

By Paul Eadie  
Reuter

CAIRO — Nobody agrees with partitioning Iraq into separate Kurdish, Sunni Muslim and Shiite Muslim statelets but everybody is talking about it.

Saddam Hussein's enemies, frustrated by his defiance of United Nations weapons inspectors and his renewed claims to Kuwait, appear to be showing a new readiness to run serious political risks in the hope of driving him from power.

Diplomats say a western plan to stop Iraqi planes and helicopters attacking Shiite Muslim rebels south of the 32nd parallel could be a first step to dismembering the country.

A similar scheme, put in place after a U.S.-led coalition drove the Iraqi army out of Kuwait in February 1991, fenced off an area north of the 36th parallel for Iraq's Kurdish minority and they have since held elections there for a parliament.

The diplomats say splitting Iraq could cause chaos, creating warring mini-states as has happened in Somalia and Yugoslavia.

A Shiite state in southern Iraq could also strengthen the position of largely Shiite Iran, whose Islamic revolution has frightened the conservative Gulf states for 13 years and which has recently been rebuilding its military power.

But the risks of partition have to be balanced against what the United States, Britain, France and pro-western Arab states such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Egypt all see as the need to take some form of effective action against Saddam Hussein.

An article in a Saudi Arabian newspaper, the London-based Al Hayat, said on Friday the allies "have finally realised that the defeat of President Saddam Hussein in the war over Kuwait and all the measures which resulted from it have failed to tame his regime."

It suggested that fear of partition should not get in the way of action.

"Recent developments can, therefore, be considered as indications of a new, bolder position which will deal with the situation on a realistic basis and abandon the superstition that the survival of the regime is essential to guarantee the unity of Iraq," the article said.

The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Akhram rationalised the policy-makers' dilemma on Friday by arguing that it was Saddam Hussein's survival which in fact threatened the unity of Iraq — so he must be removed. It suggested that Saddam Hussein's interest was in remaining a

party to a game of international conflict "which could endanger the unity of Iraq and lead to implementation of a dubious plan to partition it into three statelets."

"What is certain is that the only way to save Iraq from the trials of economic blockade and international sanctions suffered by the Iraqi people is the disappearance of this tyrant," the newspaper said in an editorial.

Diplomats said the ultimate aim of any more vigorous allied policy towards Iraq must logically be the removal of Saddam Hussein.

One said that policy-makers were now bitterly reproaching themselves for not driving Saddam Hussein from power at the end of the Gulf war — particularly in the United States, where officials were acutely aware of the irony that President George Bush may well not be reelected in November but Saddam Hussein will almost certainly still be leader of Iraq.

"This time around they cannot leave him there. They would have to do something that would take Saddam away," another said. "I cannot see any contingency plan which does not have this as the main focus."

## LETTERS

### Face to face

To the Editor:

I have read the article "Amman becomes Mideast hub for Société Générale," (Jordan Times, August 19) and I shall be grateful if you will kindly publish the following comments thereon.

Most of the information appearing in the article seems to have been received from uniformed or unauthorised sources to such an extent that not much credence can possibly be attached thereto.

It can equally be argued that some of the sources are not free from bias, especially that the best part of the article aims at exaggerating the importance of a certain banking institution and practically denying the presence of the others.

By way of an example only, Crédit Lyonnais, which is the largest in Europe and No. 5 worldwide, is still maintaining its office in Jordan with a French regional representative and a French manager both domiciled in Jordan and registered with the competent authorities in this regard. They also have their lawyer and accountant. This office covers business in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Kuwait in addition to Jordan. Crédit Lyonnais has been active in Jordan and the region in syndicating several substantial loans on an international basis. We are dealing with international financial institutions. To start with, information about such institutions should not be obtained by a mere phone call. Even if obtained by a mere phone call, the writer should have checked information received with informed sources before publication. What is face interview with an authoritative source who should be expressly informed that the information obtained is for publication.

Adèle Habache Khalaf,  
Representative Crédit Lyonnais,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## King

(Continued from page 1)

lower inner part of the left ureter with no evidence of any spread outside the ureter," the doctor was quoted as saying.

Following is the full text of the statement:

"His Majesty the King's personal physician announced this morning that His Majesty is enjoying good health and on his way to a complete recovery without any complications.

"The doctor added that the results of the biopsy taken during the operation from His Majesty's left ureter showed signs of abnormal cells. Therefore, the decision was made, in the presence of the Jordanian medical team, to remove the left ureter and the left kidney as a precautionary measure.

"The doctor added that these cells were isolated and restricted only to the lower inner part of the left ureter with no evidence of any spread outside the ureter.

"His Majesty will be able to leave the hospital in one week and there is no need for any further treatment or postopera-

tive radiotherapy. The doctor added that the surgery, which was a total success, is considered a permanent cure."

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker sent a cable to the King congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on the success of the operation.

Director of the Royal Medical Services Youssef Al-Qusous said the cells that were removed from the King's ureter are classified on a five-degree scale. He told Jordan Television these cells which caused a narrowing of the ureter were of a second degree. "The case was discovered in its beginning, and the right decision in such a case is a surgery, removing the ureter and the kidney," he said.

"The surgery is a full and complete treatment and the King does not need any kind of treatment following the operation," he said.

Those cells which were removed only found in one small area of the left ureter, and the kidney was removed as a precautionary measure, not because of any disorder or malfunction, he said.

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The foreign policy cavalry was summoned into the U.S. presidential campaign last week by a besieged White House. Fair enough. But the flip side of that development could prove to be George Bush's undoing in his final run for the roses: Mr. Bush and his men also managed to thrust the campaign into foreign policy.

The president will protest that he did no such thing. With more justice, he can say that there is no neat dividing line between policy and politics anyway. The nation's chief politician is also the commander in chief.

But Mr. Bush crudely campaigned in the commander in chief's role rather than letting the dignity and majesty of that job call attention to his achievements. As a result, he has narrowed his options on two urgent foreign crises, Iraq and Yugoslavia.

On Iraq, the president has

# Foreign sorties would be risky

acted as if a U.S.-led air strike against the villainous Saddam Hussein would be popular with the American public whenever Mr. Bush ordered it. One theory (okay, my theory) was that Mr. Bush felt he would benefit politically by waiting until October. With only a few weeks to go to Election Day, the rallying-around factor would overcome negative fallout.

But that calculation is in tatters in the wake of the Bush team's surprisingly inept attempt to shift the campaign on to foreign policy ground. Even if the president now acts (belatedly) to curb Saddam Hussein, an increasingly skeptical American public will question Mr. Bush's motivation.

It has become apparent in the past week that Mr. Bush is picking and choosing among Saddam Hussein's repeated violations of the United Nations resolutions that brought an end to the Gulf war.

Once ignored violations that could have — should have, in the

view of us anti-Saddamites — triggered U.S. military action over the past year now get big play from the administration. The plight of Shiite tribes that have been allowed to suffer at Saddam Hussein's hands is suddenly a casus belli for Washington. Voters could see an October strike as evidence that the campaign, not national security, determined the timing and scope of a U.S. military action. The thought seems to have occurred to Mr. Bush as well. Administration war planners have gone into top gear. Foreign diplomats are being told that the United States will force a new inspection at an Iraqi government ministry in Baghdad within a few weeks and will strike Baghdad immediately if Saddam again resists. Sooner is suddenly better.

Mr. Bush's misadventures in commander-in-chief land began with his disastrous appearance last week before the families of American servicemen missing in Indochina. Stocked by the short-

lived Ross Perot campaign, the group's understandably intense sense of loss and resentment flared out to scorch an unprepared Bush. The State Department buzz is that the White House ignored warnings from experts that Mr. Bush should not go at all.

Mr. Bush dug the hole deeper by reaching for Operation Desert Storm and his commander's hat as shields against the heckling. He declared "the commander in chief that led his country into its most successful recent effort" to be above criticism. This politicized both Desert Storm and Mr. Bush's laudable role in the war in petty fashion.

Off balance, Mr. Bush spokesman Martin Fitzwater tried to recover by taking a shot at Bill Clinton by calling an unobjectionable Clinton statement on Yugoslavia "reckless." The bullet ricocheted back on the reckless Fitzwater, who seems not to have read Clinton's statement before

running off at the mouth about it.

Result: The Clinton-Gore team parried the strongest policy blow the Bush-Quayle campaign can deliver the first time it fell. The White House can claim no better than a draw for the round. For Mr. Bush, a draw on foreign policy is a sure recipe for defeat in November.

Insiders say that Mr. Bush continues to fiddle while the White House burns. He has not yet asked Jim Baker to hurry over from the State Department with a bucket of water, even though leaks have largely dissipated the "bounce" the mid-August move was supposed to bring. Mr. Baker is burning, too.

Foreign visitors who met him this week came away with the feeling that the secretary of state will not be around Foggy Bottom much longer. He pointedly told Iraqi opposition leaders that he would have discussions with the help of two of his aides.

George Bush earned a place in

history with the skillful way in which he handled German unification, responded to the collapse of the Soviet Union by pushing for visionary reduction in nuclear arms, and led the war to free Kuwait. He was once the foreign policy president par excellence.

But his good judgment seems to have deserted him in the stretch run for reelection. Mr. Bush boxes himself both on the campaign trail and in his foreign policy options by linking the two so tightly, and so visibly. And Mr. Clinton counterpunches effectively on Bush's top issue.

When Mr. Bush was preparing to go to war against Saddam Hussein, he successfully portrayed himself as using force not in anger, but in sorrow over Saddam Hussein's stupidity. Now Mr. Bush risks being seen as using force not in anger, but in desperation. That would be fatal for his reelection chances — The Washington Post.

## Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

independence should not be violated under any circumstances."

Syria issued a similar statement on Friday (see page 2).

The Iranian council, after a meeting on Saturday under President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, proposed that "the innocent people of Iraq be given an opportunity to establish a government of their choice as soon as possible," IRNA said.

Turkey also condemned the Western plan and declared its commitment to Iraq's territorial integrity.

Defense Minister Nevzat Ayaz said the Western countries were getting into action to prevent possible atrocities in Iraq while watching the murder of people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The West is using double standard," Mr. Ayaz said in an interview with the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

Mr. Ayaz also pointed out that Turkey would not join such an action against Iraq. "Eventually, Iraq is a neighbour of ours with whom we are in a position to live together," he said.

Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin also received Iraq's Ambassador Rafi Barham Al Tikriti on Saturday.

Mr. Cetin told reporters that the ambassador requested the meeting to seek Turkey's help to avert the allied coalition plan. "I told him (the Iraqi ambassador) that Iraq's territorial integrity and unity were extremely important for Turkey, the region and the world. Thus, I said Turkey would not support any action and oppose any plan which would

threaten Iraq's territorial integrity," Mr. Cetin told reporters.

Iraq has launched a diplomatic offensive against the Western proposal, urging Arabs and "neutral" members of the Security Council not to let "the West interfere in its internal affairs."

A letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf called on the United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali "to assume your responsibility and move to avert a new aggression against the sovereign, independent Republic of Iraq."

Baghdad's protests have so far stopped short of saying Iraqi aircraft would directly challenge the "no-fly" zone expected to be enforced within days.

"Such a serious, belligerent stance by the USA, Britain and France, as permanent U.N. Security Council members, constitutes a resort to armed force and a preparation for a serious military offensive targeting Iraq's independence, territorial integrity and national unity, and jeopardises global peace and security," the Iraqi letter said.

Iraq has sought to head off the Western move by appealing to the Arab League and offering inspection trips to the area.

Meanwhile, a U.N. envoy said in Baghdad on Saturday that Iraq has refused to let the United Nations post guards and relief workers in the south of the country.

U.N. emergency relief coordinator Jan Eliasson told a news conference the dispute over the U.N. presence in the south was one of the two main obstacles to a new agreement with Iraq on U.N. operations in the country.

Mr. Eliasson ended five days of inconclusive talks in Baghdad on Friday and will now report back to Dr. Ghali.

## By-elections

(Continued from page 1)

affiliation and not as a result of his political views, observers say.

Among the groups that used to support leftist and pan-Arab politicians were over one million Palestinians from refugee camps and the Christian community. But both groups seemed to have abandoned Madaba's leftist candidate in favour of the Islamist candidate in the case of the Palestinians and a pro-establishment former government official Dr. Fawwaz Abul Ghanam, in the case of the Christians.

It was a shock for many ideological supporters of Mr. Shakhaneh and the secular elements in the Jordanian political scene to witness the loss of two groups of what was largely considered their constituency.

Tribalism, on the other hand, will remain a part of Jordanian politics until Jordanians find another mechanism that they feel will serve their individual and common interests, the political observers say.

"Many Jordanians have found prestigious positions and wealth as a result of their tribal affiliations for the past 50 or 60 years," said a member of the Al Hadid clan in Qweisneh. "Some Jordanians of Palestinian origin have also affiliated themselves with Jordanian clans through business or marriage and are thus also likely to vote according to tribal alliances," added the relative of the winner of the Qweisneh district.

Mr. Hadid's comments about Palestinians political affi-

liations reflected the support his cousin received, got from one sector of the Palestinian population in his district.

In Qweisneh, seven candidates ran for the one vacant seat in the Lower House for that district. Only one of the candidates represented any political grouping. The other six represented themselves and their tribes.

After losing the seat to Anwar Al Hadid, Qweisneh candidate Minweir Abu Zeid who came second sent a cable to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd contending that the elections were "undemocratic" and asking for political asylum for himself and his clan.

While the outcome of this request is still uncertain (seasoned political observers are not even taking him or the request seriously), the idea of a tribal chieftain taking such step is one which reflects the "individualistic and tribal attitudes" which have been imbedded by past government policies and systems over the last decade," as one analyst put it.

"Tribalism and sectarianism were nurtured for the past 50 years, and it should come as no surprise that Jordanians now behave along tribal and sectarian lines that even supersede the allegiance to Jordan as a country," the analyst said.

While both the decline of the left and the stubborn remnants of tribalism are issues to be "reckoned with," according to another analyst it is Islamic politics which poses the greatest challenge to the society as a whole.

Accepted or tolerated as part of the political system in Jordan for the last 40 years, the Muslim Brotherhood and

other politicised Islamic groups are challenging the concept of separation between religion and state.

The fundamentalist groups base their political programme on a political system as outlined by the Koran and believe any deviation from laws, rules and regulations mentioned in the Koran should be scrapped.

"The Koran is our constitution," say the Islamists.

The increased strength of the Brotherhood in Tuesday's elections was an indicator of the rising fundamentalist inclination that some opinion polls have predicted throughout last year.

"Across the world when things are not going right people turn to religion; this is natural," said one political commentator. "In South Africa they turned to Bishop Tutu, in America the blacks found a hero in the Reverend Martin Luther King. Why should people be surprised that the Arab masses are turning to religion."

Although the Brotherhood failed to win the Qweisneh seat, the difference in number of votes between the winning candidate and the Brotherhood candidate was just over 400 votes. In the 1989 elections the difference in number of votes received by the tribal Al Hadid candidate and the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, both of which won seats in the House, was almost 2,000 votes.

This marks a major increase in support for the Brotherhood in the Qweisneh district.

In the Madaba district, the late Deputy Ahmad Qteish Al Azaidah received just over 6,000 votes during the 1989 elections. His much younger

and less well-known and less popular relative Mohammad Khrebat Al Azaidah received almost 2,000 votes more last Tuesday — again a significant increase.

The vast majority of the Palestinians from the refugee camp in Madaba, who have some 3,500 votes chose to elect the Brotherhood candidate for two reasons," said a political observer from Madaba.

"They would not vote for the former government official, Fawaz Abul Ghanam, because he represents a sector of the society which has not been aligned to the Palestinian part of the population. They did not vote for Mr. Shakhaneh because he represented a part of the political grouping which supports the on-going peace process which more or less has side-lined the refugee issue. Since these voters are all refugees from 1948 they will naturally vote for a candidate who represents their interest in the long-term goal of returning to their land or at least the acquisition for their rights as a people and or a candidate who takes care of their interests in the interim period in which they will remain citizens of Jordan. Mr. Khrebat could fill both shoes, while Mr. Shakhaneh could only fill the latter," concluded the analyst.

The elements that became apparent in the 1989 elections seemed to have become even more into the limelight during last week's by-elections. Even the voter participation, which declined from the previous 40 per cent, joined tribalism and fundamentalism to become what appears to be permanent fixtures on the popular Jordanian political scene.

## Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

appeared to be sending a "political message."

"They want to tell us they are the masters and we are the slaves, and we should tolerate whatever treatment they give us," he said. "This is not acceptable to us. There has to be a basic agreement and they should respect that agreement."

Dr. Erakat brushed off the possibility that the Palestinian position could lead to a delay in the resumption of the talks in Washington.

"They (the Israelis) subject us to all kinds of degrading treatment; they rummage through our baggage, throw out clothes and harass us in every possible manner (at the bridge)," he said. "We insist that this comes to an end."

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi reaffirmed the Palestinian stand.

"We are saying we have to clear up this issue once and for all," Dr. Ashrawi was quoted as saying by Reuters.

"We want assurances that the Palestinians will be treated as an official delegation with dignity

and respect ... even if it delays the peace talks," she said.

After a three-hour delay at the bridge on Friday Israeli authorities said five of the Palestinians aged under 35 did not have permits allowing them to return immediately after the talks. Without such permits Palestinians under age 35 must remain abroad at least nine months.

The five were support staff attached to the delegation.

The occupation authorities suggested the Palestinians make written requests to receive permits at the bridge. They refused.

Dr. Ashrawi had said that the aides were on a list submitted to the Israeli authorities three days before. She had told reporters that the team would not travel again unless it was given "guarantees that we will be able to leave without harassment ... even if it takes a delay."

Hanan Ruhin, spokesman for the Israeli military in the occupied territories, had responded that none of the aides was an official negotiator or adviser. Because of this they were not given "special treatment."

Israel has agreed to waive travel restrictions for delegates to the Middle East peace talks.

## Jordanians

(Continued from page 1)

granting the loan guarantees at a time when settlements are considered an obstacle to peace."

On the delay in the departure of the Palestinian delegation to Washington because of obstacles placed by the Israeli occupation authorities, Dr. Majali, asked: "How would the Israelis negotiate with the Palestinians while they prevent them from leaving to Washington?"

Dr. Majali referred to previous

Israeli attempts during the past round of bilateral negotiations to show the world that the Arabs do not want peace.

Dr. Majali said the peace process "is a comprehensive one. It is of course difficult to start the negotiations without the Palestinians, particularly that the Palestinian cause is the core of the conflict in the Middle East region."

The Israeli delegation to the talks was scheduled to leave for Washington late Saturday, Israel Television said.

## Bush

(Continued from page 1)

same interview that Mr. Clinton is still headed for victory because Mr. Bush "still had no plan whatsoever to get America's economy back on track."

He called the president's acceptance speech on Thursday night at the close of the Republican convention "cynical... petty" and untruthful.

On the campaign front, Mr. Bush is calling Mr. Clinton a tax-and-spend liberal, while Mr. Clinton is warning voters that the Republican president is trying to "sucker-punch you" with promises of a tax cut.

The rich rhetoric suggested that a brawl lies ahead — with the economy providing the stage for the 10-week fight up to the Nov. 3 election.

"My opponent's ideas are clear, present and dangerous," Mr. Bush told an enthusiastic crowd in conservative southern Missouri. "He wants to invest your money in government spending and I'm not going to let it happen."

Mr. Clinton, ready to set out with running mate Gore on another bus trip through the industrial heartland, countered Mr. Bush's jab with a reminder of the "no new taxes" promised by the president four years ago.

"If you believe that, I've got some land in the Middle of the ocean I want to sell you," the Arkansas governor told a rally in Cleveland, the first city in his latest buscade. Mr. Clinton warned voters Mr. Bush was trying "to sucker-punch you one more time."

Mr. Bush signed a large tax increase in 1990. In accepting the Republican nomination, he promised an across-the-board tax cut accompanied by reduced government spending but offered no specifics.

"Send them back to Arkansas and Tennessee," Mr. Bush said of Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore, the southern twin ticket that threatens the Republican lock on the south critical to the victories by Mr. Bush and Ronald Reagan. "Don't bet against us in November."

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## Linford Christie returning to form but Fredericks steals the show

BERLIN (R) — Britain's Linford Christie, who failed in his first major 100 metres after his Barcelona Olympic triumph, returned to top form with a vengeance Friday.

But Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredericks of Namibia stole the show in the 200 metres at the Berlin Grand Prix meeting with a brilliant win over Olympic champion Mike Marsh and fellow American Carl Lewis, a winner of eight Olympic titles.

And there was another shock in the 400 metres when Olympic bronze medalist Samson Kitur of Kenya blasted past Americans Quincy Watts and Steve Lewis, the gold and silver medalists, in the closing strides to snatch victory at the line.

Kitur clocked 44.75 seconds ahead of Watts in 44.83 with Lewis third in 45.05.

The 32-year-old Christie, second behind Nigerian Olapade Adeniken in Cologne last Sunday, produced a superb start to beat a high-class field that included four other Barcelona finalists.

He clocked a wind-assisted 9.99 seconds with Americo Leroy Burrell second in 10.04 and Canadian Bruny Surin third in 10.15. American Olympic bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell finished fourth in 10.16. The wind speed was above the permitted

level. But just 10 minutes later the Olympic Stadium was set alight by a superb late run from the 24-year-old Fredericks in a tight 200 metres finish.

The U.S.-based Namibian powered through in the final metres to pip Marsh, the fastest man in the world this year, who held off Lewis on the line.

Fredericks clocked 20.01 seconds ahead of Marsh in 20.14 with Lewis in 20.16 ahead of Olympic bronze medalist Michael Bates.

The Namibian was delighted to beat Marsh, who went close to breaking Italian Pietro Mennea's 13-year-old world best of 19.72, the oldest track running record in the book, in Barcelona.

"I did not plan this after several seconds and third places in my last races. It is the second time in my life that I have beaten Carl Lewis and the first time that I could beat Mike Marsh over 200."

Christie, who has been unable to train fully since the games, declined to take on Lewis at the prestigious Zurich Weltklasse meeting Wednesday, when the 31-year-old American triumphed over six Barcelona finalists.

Lewis, who failed to qualify for the U.S. teams in the sprints, said he would have been pleased to take on Christie over 100 metres

in Berlin. But the two finally ran in separate races and their fascinating duel will have to wait.

Kenyan William Kemei beat Algeria's world 1,500 metres champion Nourddine Morceli and German 5,000 metres Olympic champion Dieter Baumann in the mile.

But the sprints provided the highlight of a meeting which produced good performances near the end of a demanding season.

Britain's high hurdler Colin Jackson, who had a disastrous Olympic final, continued his superb post-Barcelona form with his third victory over Canadian Olympic champion Mark McKoy in 11 days.

European champion Jackson, whose Olympic hopes crumbled when he hit a hurdle early in the final, gave a superb display of smooth hurdling to clock 13.05 seconds.

McKoy, his training partner and friend, was second in 13.12 with Briton Tony Jarrett third in 13.25. The wind had dropped below the permitted level for the race.

Jackson's time was just one hundredth of a second outside the European record set when he beat McKoy in Cologne. The 25-year-old Welshman had already taken the scalp of the Olympic champion just a few

days after the end of the Olympics in Monaco on Aug. 11.

Kemei, 26, produced a strong finish to take the mile in three minutes 48.80 seconds with Morceli second in 3:49.79.

Kenyan Moses Kiptanui, who has broken two world records in four days this week — the 3,000 metres and 3,000 metres steeplechase — was unable to set a third in the 2,000 metres.

But Kiptanui, who plans to attack the 5,000 metres world record in Brussels next week, won in four minutes 52.53 seconds, 1.72 seconds outside the record.

Sergei Bubka, competing in his adopted German city, could not break his own world pole vault record of 6.11 metres.

But the Ukrainian kept fans in the stadium way after the track events had finished before he failed in his third attempt at 6.13.

In the women's 100, Irina Privalova of Russia, the Olympic bronze medalist, raced ahead of Gwen Torrence of the United States to win in 10.93. Torrence, the 200 gold medalist, was second in 11.02, while Merlene Ottey of Jamaica finished third in 11.10.

Mike Powell, the world record holder, led an American sweep in the long jump by winning with a leap of 8.57 metres. Erik Waldner was second at 8.11, and Joe Greene was third at 8.07.

## Jordan beats Sudan 3-0

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan defeated Sudan 3-0 in a match played Saturday at Amman Stadium as part of the Jordan International Soccer Championship.

Jordan's goals were scored by Aref Hussein, Jamal Abu Abed and Ahmad Abdul Qader. With this result, Jordan tops the standings of the championship's group one teams, along with Moldova, each having four points.

In its first match, Jordan defeated Pakistan 2-0. In a group two match played Saturday afternoon at Al Has-

san Stadium in Irbid, Congo beat Ethiopia 3-0. This was Congo's first win, raising its point toll to two.

This was Ethiopia's third loss and it remains at the bottom of the standings with no points.

Congo will await the results of Algeria's Wifaf Steif Club which will be vying with it for the group's second spot in the standings. The top spot was occupied by Iraq which has already won its two matches. In the first, it defeated Ethiopia 13-0 and in the second it beat Congo 3-0.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Olympic champion shatters Cycling record

LEICESTER, England (R) — Olympic pursuit champion Chris Boardman, using the revolutionary Lotus machine he rode at Barcelona, shattered the world five-km amateur outdoor cycling record Saturday. Boardman, who gained Britain's first Olympic cycling gold for 72 years in Barcelona, clocked five minutes 38.83 seconds. His time smashed the previous record of 5:46.02 set at altitude by American Kent Bostick in October 1991 and also bettered the professional mark of 5:44.700 also set at altitude by Germany's Gregor Braun in 1986.

### Devoy cruises into squash final

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — World champion Susan Devoy cruised to a straight-games victory over defending champion Robyn Lambourne Saturday to advance to the final of the New Zealand Open Squash Championship. New Zealand Devoy beat her third-seeded Australian opponent 15-8, 15-9, 15-10 and now faces fourth seed Michelle Martin in Sunday's final. Martin surprised second-seeded Martine Le Moignan of Britain 15-6, 15-6, 15-13 in the other women's semifinal. Devoy took only 39 minutes to defeat Lambourne, combining delicate drop shots with powerful strokes. "I feel really strong, and it has helped. I don't get as tired as I used to. I just hope I can keep it going," Devoy said. "I've been doing a lot of cross-training recently and it has helped. I don't get as tired as I used to. I just hope I can keep it going." Flery Spaniard Austin Adarraga advanced to the men's singles final after a tough battle with eighth-seeded Australian Mark Carlyon. Adarraga downed Carlyon 15-3, 15-13, 15-13, 10-15, 15-5 to clinch a meeting with third-seeded Hansi Wiens of Germany. It will be Adarraga's first major final appearance. Wiens defeated second-seeded Abdul Saheem Khan of Hong Kong 15-6, 15-7, 15-8 in the other men's semifinal.

### World Bridge Olympiad begins Sunday

SALSAMAGGIORE, Italy (AP) — The U.S. team, world champions at the last World Bridge Olympiad four years ago, is given a good chance to retain the title when competition begins Sunday. Contract bridge teams from 59 nations will compete in the two-week tournament sponsored by the World Bridge Federation that ends on Sept. 5. Simultaneously, teams from 35 countries will vie for the World Women's Olympiad title. Teams in each event have been subdivided into two divisions and round-robin competition will take place within these divisions. The top four teams will advance to the quarterfinals. From that point on, teams will play head-to-head knockout matches, the winners advancing and losers eliminated, until the two champions are determined. The defending champion in the open, the United States, and the Americans are rated one of the best to win this time too.

### IOC chief wins award

NEW YORK (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Juan Antonio Samaranch was named winner of the inaugural Jesse Owens Global Award, Herbert Douglas, founder of the award, announced. The biennial award was created to honour individuals "who have made a significant and lasting contribution of enduring quality to society from a background of sports," Mr. Douglas said in a release announcing Mr. Samaranch as the first winner. The recipient is chosen by a panel of authorities assembled by the International Amateur Athletic Federation. The winner is chosen for distinguished leadership over a period of years in focusing international attention on the potential of sports to inspire and encourage the pursuit of global unity, the release said. Mr. Samaranch, who at the Barcelona Olympics announced that he would remain at his IOC post for another term, will receive the Jesse Owens Global Award on Feb. 9.

## Becker ends Connors' dream run

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Boris Becker ended Jimmy Connors' dream run at the \$1 million RCA Championships Friday with a 6-4 6-3 quarterfinal victory.

Middle age is looming for the 37th-ranked Connors — he turns 40 years old on Sept. 2 — but he showed here he still can master some players 20 years his junior.

This week he cruised through three opponents including fifth seed Wayne Ferreira in the third round before facing the ninth-ranked Becker, the third seed.

"I guess I bring out the best in everybody," said the 11th-seeded Connors. "You just have to do the best you can."

Becker, the runner-up here in 1991, meets defending champion Pete Sampras in the semifinals. The second-seeded American beat unseeded Swede Thomas Enqvist 6-0 7-6 (8-6) in another quarterfinal.

Top-seeded world number one

Jim Courier plays unseeded fellow American Todd Martin in the other semifinal.

Martin, ranked 125th in the world, upset sixth seed Francisco Clavet of Spain 6-1 6-2.

Becker's serve was the key to his convincing win over Connors. The German hit eight aces and won an astonishing 25 of 28 points on his first serve.

"You can't hit what you can't see," said Connors.

Becker's serving neutralized Connors' most renowned weapon, his return of serve. Connors barely touched a first serve all day and when he did he won only 11 per cent of the points. On Becker's second serve, Connors won on the winning side only 37 per cent of the time.

"It was the best match I served all week," said Becker, who now holds a 5-0 career edge over Connors. "I knew the way I had to play and that I had to stick with it from the first to last point."

"I knew I had to do well the first couple of games," added Becker. "I wanted him to know I'm there, come on playing and wanting to win."

The third-ranked Sampras, who won last week in Cincinnati, served eight aces during his match and won 93 per cent of the points when he got his first serve in.

Sampras won all but 10 points in the first set.

The 135th-ranked Enqvist saved four match points on his serve in the 12th game of the second set but Sampras won the match on his second match point in the tiebreaker.

"I would have leaving a tournament after being up four match points and losing," said Sampras.

"I played pretty well," said Sampras, who feels the loss has improved since last year when he won here. "I'm probably a better player. I'm more solid and smarter."

## Seles powers way into Canadian Open semis

MONTREAL (AP) — Monica Seles powered her way into the semifinals of the Matinee International Canadian Open tournament with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-1 victory over Patricia Hy of Canada.

Seles, the top seed, disappeared for most of the second set but came back strong for the third. In the semifinals, Seles will face No. 8 Lori McNeil, who beat fourth-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland 7-5, 6-2.

"I don't know what happened in the second set — my mind went off the court," said Seles, who's won four of the last six Grand Slam events. "She's a tough player but I still don't think I should have let that happen."

Seles continued to struggle with her service. She was broken at love on her serve for Hy's only win of the final set — her 10th loss of service in three matches this week.

"I don't think I've served so many double-faults in my whole career as this week," Seles said. "Usually, I don't lose my serve."

Seles has won all three previous meetings with McNeil. "She's got a great serve, she'll come to the net a lot and she'll slice her backhand," Seles said. "I'll definitely have to serve a lot better than today."

## Top seeds advance in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic overcame sloppy play and Marc Rosset's powerful serve to advance to the Volvo International quarterfinals with a three-set victory.

Ivanisevic, the second seed, broke Rosset only once, and was broken only once in winning 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 in 99 minutes.

Other high seeds advanced fairly easily as top seed Stefan Edberg beat 16th seed Paul Haarhuis 6-2, 6-4; No. 3 Michael Chang defeated No. 14 Andrei Cherkasov 6-2, 6-1; No. 4 Petr Korda won over Chuck Adams,

6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, and No. 5 Ivan Lendl beat Amos Mansdorf 6-2, 6-3.

Ninth-seed John McEnroe was beaten by eighth-seed Malivai Washington 7-6 (7-0), 6-4 and No. 7 Guy Forget and unseeded Fabrice Santoro also advanced to the quarterfinals with straight-set victories.

Ivanisevic could hardly touch Rosset's first serve as the Olympic gold medalist had 17 aces and won the point on 46 of the 49 first serves he got in.

"It's tough to play a guy like

him," said Ivanisevic, who leads the ATP in aces this year. "Every second serve was 127 (mph), 120, 125. You can't see it. It's going too fast. You can't react."

Rosset waited out after he and Ivanisevic lost at doubles to talk with the media and was very terse in talking about the match.

"I really have nothing special to say about the singles," he said.

Ivanisevic lost to Rosset in straight sets in the five set Olympic semifinal two weeks ago, and said that match flashed through his mind in the first set Friday when he had only two points off Rosset's serve.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH  
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠J2 ♣Vvoid ♢K954 ♠1098432  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
4 ♣ Pass ?

What do you bid now?  
A.—Partner's four clubs is a cue-bid to tell you that he has a maximum two no trump with a good fit for diamonds, otherwise he would have bid three no trump or simply raised diamonds. Also, partner does not have the aces of hearts and spades, since it's normal to cue-bid the cheapest ace first. Still, if there is little duplication in hearts, slam should be, at worst, on a finesse. Cue-bid four hearts to see how partner reacts.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AK842 ♣Vvoid ♢AQJ2 ♠AK97  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?  
A.—You could easily have a grand slam. However, if partner has little more than long hearts, even a small slam might be too high. You will need a lot of room to find your best spot, so don't start with a jump shift despite your powerhouse. Bid one spade.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠KQ654 ♣AQ4 ♢Q7 ♠J1062  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—Despite the fact that your spade response did not move partner to guess things, you could still have a game, perhaps even slam, in clubs. Jump to three clubs and see whether that sparks a sign of life from partner.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A109765 ♣K7 ♢AKJ ♠K6  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—With all primes and a sixth spade, even a jump to four spades won't express the value of your hand. Make a jump shift to three diamonds. Don't worry—if partner raises, you can always correct to spades at the same level.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AKQ93 ♣109 ♢A54 ♠1088  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—In the modern style, partner's reverse creates a one-round force, so you could rebid two spades to confirm a five-card suit. But that wouldn't express the full value of your hand, and neither would a preference to three clubs. We would make the advance cue-bid of three diamonds to see whether that elicits delayed spade support from partner.

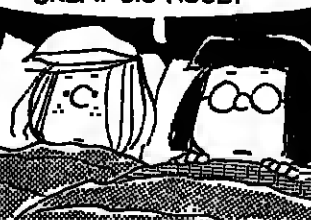
Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KJ98632 ♣J73 ♢Q7 ♠83.  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
4 ♣ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—Partner is cue-bidding to show good spades, a maximum two-no-trump opening and first-round control of clubs. You have already shown slam interest—had you been interested only in game, you would have leaped directly to four spades. Despite your seven-card suit, you have only five high-card points, so apply the brakes by simply rebidding four spades.

## Peanuts

SIR, WAKE UP! THERE'S SOMETHING OUTSIDE OUR TENT!



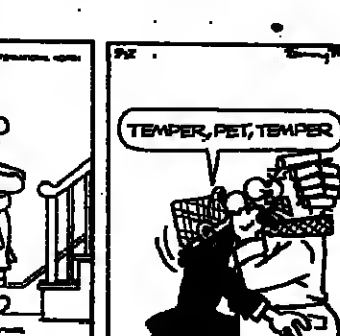
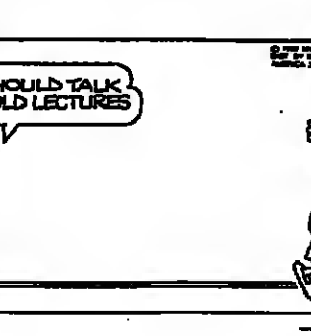
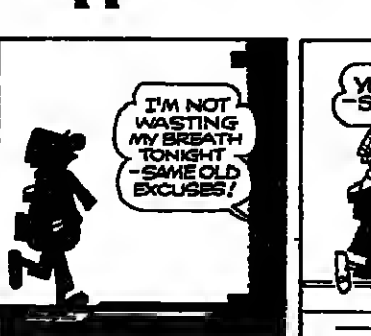
IT'S SOME KIND OF FUZZY CREATURE WITH A GREAT BIG NOSE!



I RESENT THE PART ABOUT THE GREAT BIG NOSE!



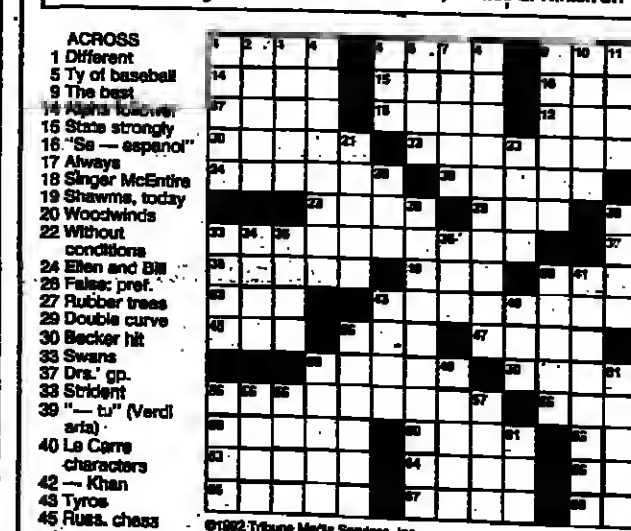
## Andy Capp



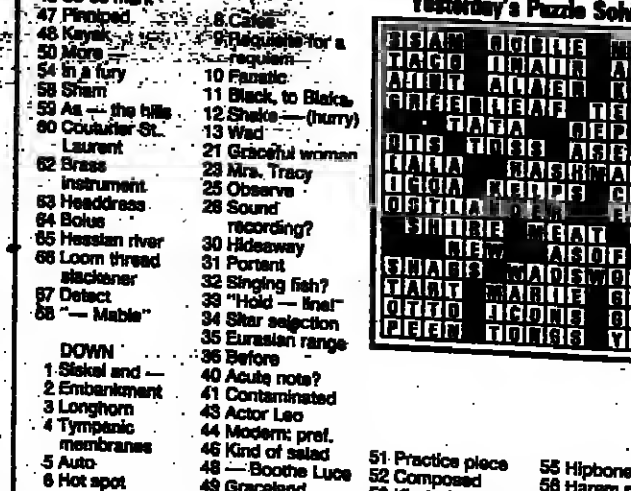
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hirsch Jr.



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## THE BETTER HALF.

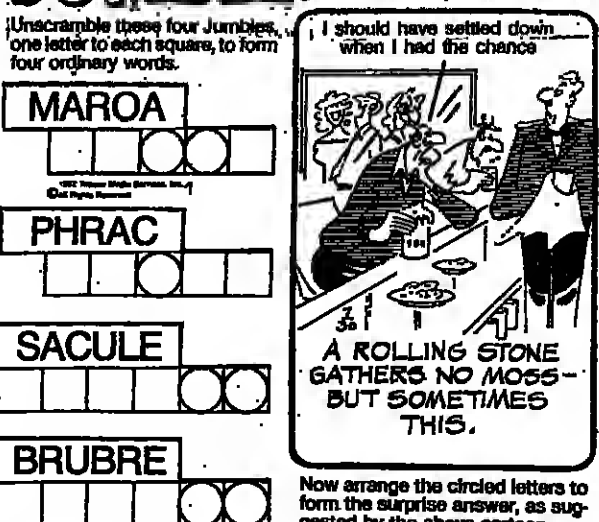
By Harris



"A C-plus for cuddling and a D for snuggling! You're brutal!"

## JUMBLE.

by Herl Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: STUNG MESSY CONVOY ALBINO

Answer: That chef was a man for all tims— "SEASONINGS"



## Iran increasing investment in oil industry

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has increased investment in oil, gas and petrochemical industries by a quarter to 1.5 trillion riyals (\$1 billion at the floating exchange rate) this year, Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgadeh has said.

In an interview published in Jomhuri Eslami newspaper and quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, Mr. Azgadeh said the oil ministry was drawing up extensive exploration plans to 1999, with priority given to border areas.

"More than 1.2 trillion riyals were injected last (Iranian) year into oil, gas and petrochemical industries. This year the figure was increased to 1.5 trillion (riyals) as a result of which... (oil) production capacity will reach 4.5 million barrels per day (b/d)," he said.

The Iranian year starts March 21. "We plan to carry out further explorations in border regions this year. Also, seismographic works in an area measuring several thousand square kilometres in the Caspian Sea will be carried out before the year ends," the minister said.

## Russian minister defends privatisation cheque scheme

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government Friday defended plans to give each citizen a personal stake in the economy, saying even "old grandmothers" would profit from the introduction of privatisation cheques.

Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, responsible for the world's biggest privatisation programme, told a news conference the cheques would be distributed to people between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31.

"Every citizen of Russia will receive a personal privatisation cheque with a face value of 10,000 roubles (\$62)," he said, giving details of the scheme announced Wednesday by President Boris Yeltsin.

The cheques, emblazoned with a picture of the imposing Russian Parliament building on the banks of the Moscow River, are the centrepiece of the privatisation programme.

Asked how the Russian "babushka" (grandmother) in the country would be able to grasp the concept of private ownership

and benefit from the scheme, Mr. Chubais said:

"For us, the old grandmother has been a central figure in determining how the cheques should be distributed."

He said the state was seeking to create a competitive market for people who had no desire to own property and simply wanted to sell their cheques for cash.

The State Property Committee estimates some 30 per cent of Russia's 150 million people will sell their cheques without delay. Russia had no tradition of private property ownership, even before the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

Mr. Chubais suggested the cheques might rise in value as the privatisation process picked up speed.

"I would not recommend people to sell their cheques right away," he said.

Some economists criticised the government for putting a face value on the cheques, but Mr. Chubais said: "The main thing is not the number of zeros on the cheque, but its real value."

Each cheque will be valid for one year and may be used to buy a stake in the 35 per cent of shares set aside for this method of purchase. The remaining shares will be sold for cash or distributed to employees.

Citizens will pick up the cheques at local savings banks. They can then buy shares in the enterprise where they work or offer them at auctions in exchange for other shares.

They may also exchange them for shares in an investment fund, which will invest in many enterprises, or they can sell them or give them away.

Foreigners will be able to buy cheques from Russians — a prospect which might entice foreign investors, especially given the weakness of the rouble against foreign currencies.

Mr. Chubais said 6,000 to 7,000 Russian enterprises should be transformed into joint stock companies by the end of 1992. Managers are to submit privatisation plans by Oct. 1.

He said foreign investors would be assisted by a reduction in ministerial red tape and by a privatisation database which people would be able to consult at Russian missions abroad.

## Giant trade blocs promise to shake up world commerce

NEW YORK (R) — The global system of trade built up in the past four decades is coming under pressure from giant regional blocs that are giving special treatment to the members of these clubs.

Politicians in much of the world are facing two choices, trade experts say — either join one of three major blocs that will compete against one another or try to merge these zones into a stronger global system to ensure free trade.

But the risks are mounting that free global trade may be derailed as Europe, Asia and the Americas strengthen internal ties and grow more adversarial.

"The question is whether these blocs will be benign, or whether they will move in a different direction," said Jeffrey Garten, a former White House and State Department official. "I don't think the results are in yet."

Mr. Garten, author of a recent publication "A Cold Peace: America, Japan, Germany and the Struggle for Supremacy," said the next six months could be a watershed as diplomats struggle to wrap up multilateral trade

other countries might be to increase their own protection," said Robert Hormats, a vice chairman of Goldman Sachs Co. and a former trade official.

"But foreigners should be more eager to move ahead on the GATT talks because they see these barriers, in effect, going up in North America," Mr. Hormats said.

"They have a greater interest in the Uruguay Round (of GATT trade talks) than before NAFTA."

Europe is breaking down its own barriers in creating a single market and Japan — the economic leader in the Far East — is the de facto head of the Pacific region.

There are blocs large and small — the Mercosur in South America, the bloc of the former Soviet republics, even a zone in Central America.

One economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Norman Fieles, counted 23 trading pacts around the world with 119 member nations.

But the big three — North America, Europe and Asia — will set the pace. As they create blocs, tension is rising with the overall trading system.

talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that have dragged on since 1986.

The United States was at the core of the system created in 1948 — the strongest economy in the world that helped others rebuild in the aftermath of World War II.

But as the cold war ended and economic competition between Germany, Japan and the United States increased, cracks have appeared in the once-steady post-war alliance.

Washington no longer calls the shots as it did for nearly three decades. Europe, Japan and the United States bicker over farm subsidies, car parts and computer chips.

Each nation is turning to a regional bloc to buttress its economic position, despite the difficulties that arise in linking up with neighbours.

In the most recent example, the United States, Mexico and Canada shook hands last week on a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that proponents said would create the world's largest trading zone.

"There is the risk that this might backfire and the reaction of

Financial Markets			
in cooperation with			
Cairo Amman Bank			
J.T.S. Middle East International Markets			
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 11/21/92	NEW YORK CLOSE 11/20/92	
Sterling Pound	1.9550	1.9395	
Deutsche Mark	1.4290	1.4475	
Swiss Franc	1.2710	1.2877	
French Franc	4.8595	4.9155	
Japanese Yen	125.81	126.48	
European Currency Unit	1.4210	1.3988	

Financial Markets			
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Cairo Amman Bank			
J.T.S. Middle East International Markets			
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.25	5.43
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.18	10.31
Deutsche Mark	9.81	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.81	8.12	7.94
French Franc	10.05	10.15	10.37
Japanese Yen	4.06	3.81	3.65
European Currency Unit	10.68	10.75	10.75

Financial Markets			
in cooperation with			
Cairo Amman Bank			
J.T.S. Middle East International Markets			
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	0.666	0.666	0.666
Sterling Pound	1.3025	1.3025	1.3025
Deutsche Mark	0.4658	0.4658	0.4658
Swiss Franc	0.5282	0.5282	0.5282
French Franc	0.1371	0.1371	0.1371
Japanese Yen	0.5299	0.5299	0.5299
Dutch Guilder	0.4133	0.4133	0.4133
Swedish Krona	0.1276	0.1276	0.1276
Hallus Lira	0.0611	0.0611	0.0611
Belgian Franc	0.02258	0.02258	0.02258

Financial Markets			
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Cairo Amman Bank			
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Belgian Franc	0.02258	0.02258	0.02258

## Turkey expects 6.5m tourists this year

ANKARA (R) — Turkey expects 6.5 million tourists this year, 1.3 million more than in 1991, despite a surge in Kurdish-related violence, Tourism Minister Abdulkadir Ates has said.

Travel agents and operators say Turkish tourism may benefit from turbulence in Algeria and Yugoslavia this year.

"After the Yugoslav civil war erupted last year, tour operators rushed to Turkey to make room reservations in anticipation of big sales," travel agent Bertan Ozen said.

"But we've heard that after the Kurdish incidents some wave found it hard to market what they paid for," he added.

Fehmi Kofteoglu, spokesman of the Union of Turkish Travel Agencies, said: "No cancellation of reservations has come from Western operators so far this year. Italy is expensive. Spanish rooms will be filled by Expo fair visitors. Yugoslavia, Tunisia and Algeria are not secure and stable for tourists. So Turkey still has the chance to attract more Western tourists this year," he added.

## India's reform drive seen flagging

NEW DELHI (R) — Beseated by a billion-dollar financial scandal and frustrated by politicians and bureaucrats, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's economic reforms are losing steam, economists and officials say.

Over the past year, India has axed the "licence raj", the maze of regulations that governed the state-dominated economy, and in the process ditched the pursuit of Fabian socialism.

But Mr. Rao has been notably less successful in tackling reforms that might annoy special interest groups. "Right now the reform effort is in the balance," one Western diplomat said.

Mr. Rao's government has still not come up with an "exit policy", allowing firms that don't make money to go out of business, after saying it would be ready, by last December.

Organised labour opposes any move that might cost jobs. But foreign investors are wary of investing in a country that does not allow them to pull out if a project fails, diplomats say.

India's tentative moves towards privatisation have also stalled. Mr. Rao said last week that he would bow to demands from opposition parties as well as his own Congress Party to suspend his partial privatisation of state-run industries.

Some members of parliament said the government had underpriced 30 billion rupees (\$1.1

billion) worth of shares from 29 state-owned firms it sold to banks and mutual funds last year as part of India's first go at privatisation.

They said the cheap shares had contributed to the 31 billion rupee (\$1.2 billion) stocks and securities scam that has rocked India's financial markets to their foundations.

The scandal, in which bank officials colluded with stockbrokers to divert government bonds into the then booming Bombay bourse, has already claimed one of the driving figures behind the reforms — Commerce Minister P. Chidambaram.

Mr. Chidambaram, a Harvard University business graduate, resigned after disclosing he had invested in a financial investment company linked to the scandal.

Finance ministry officials say the probe into the scandal will delay proposed reforms of the financial system, 90 per cent of whose assets are owned by state-owned institutions.

The reforms, recommended by an official commission earlier this year, would allow private and foreign banks much more scope for doing business in India. They are opposed by bureaucrats and leftist trade unions.

Approved foreign investment shot up to more than \$700 million in the year since July 1991 when India said foreign firms could take a majority stake in joint ventures. It was a paltry \$75

million in fiscal year 1990/91 (April-March).

How much of that money will actually materialise once companies start pushing their projects through the bureaucratic maze is not clear.

Motorola, which wanted to invest \$1.4 billion in the next decade, has complained about delays in getting its projects approved and announced it will move some investments to China.

In a letter to Mr. Rao, India's Joint Business Council Chairman Bharat Ram said the big Japanese firms feared a slowdown in the reform programme.

One reason the reform drive may be flagging is the economy is no longer in the mess it was a year ago, economists say.

When Mr. Rao, 71, took office in June 1991 after a traumatic election that saw the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, the country stood on the brink of default on its \$74 billion debt and inflation was stuck in double digits.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailed out the country with \$2.2 billion in stand-by credits accompanied by a long list of conditions for fiscal reform.

Foreign exchange reserves are now a comfortable \$6 billion, though businessmen say most of the money is borrowed. Inflation has eased to annual rate of 9.1 per cent against 16 per cent a year ago.

Industrial production showed 4.0 per cent growth in April after registering no growth in the 1991/92 year (April-March), and a good monsoon raises hopes for bumper crops.

It could be up to the IMF to keep the reform fires burning. Delhi's decision to ask the IMF to convert the present 18-month standby credit into a medium-term loan means India will have to stay the reform course, an international economist said.

An IMF programme stretched over several years would demand that India adhere to a timetable to cut subsidies, come up with an exit policy, continue privatisation and bring down the budget deficit, he said.

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## Shelling batters Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Shelling battered Sarajevo Saturday, briefly closing the besieged city's airport, after many residents were forced to spend the night in shelters.

The U.N. Protection Force for Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) said the airport — delivery point for vital humanitarian supplies for the 380,000 people trapped in the Bosnian capital — was closed for half an hour in mid-morning because of mortar fire in the vicinity. Artillery could also be heard.

The airport is caught in the crossfire line between Serb and Muslim gunners who have been battling each other for control of the city for almost five months.

But an UNPROFOR spokesman said planes were later able to land and take off again if they chose to.

Overnight shelling was heavy in the old town centre and set ablaze buildings including the offices of the Bosnian newspaper Oslobođenje. The Kosovo Hospital, damaged in earlier bouts of fighting, was hit again several times.

There was no word on casualties in the latest flare-up which dings hopes for a peace breakthrough at an international conference on Yugoslavia opening in London next Wednesday.

More than 8,000 people have been killed and almost two million displaced in four months of conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims and Croats are battling Serb forces opposed to the republic's independence from Yugoslavia.

Bosnian government sources

suggested that the Muslims might be launching an offensive in a bid to break out of encircled Sarajevo with the help of Croat forces.

Serb sources in the city's Serb district of Ilidza played down the possibility but said they were attacked in the night at several points. Ilidza itself was hit by 83 mortar bombs, with one Serb fighter killed and one wounded, they said.

Serbs also said they were attacked in the Nedarić district by Bosnians who broke through Serb lines but were finally repulsed. They claimed 10 Muslims were killed and 20 wounded. This could not be independently confirmed.

The Serb officer in charge at Ilidza said: "We could fight harder but our politicians tell us only to defend ourselves."

At least five people were wounded by overnight shelling in Dobrinja, on the outskirts of Sarajevo, and mortar bombs fell in the suburbs of Stup and Vogosca. Street fighting flared in the Hrasno district.

On Friday, four people were killed and at least 23 wounded in the heaviest bombardment of Sarajevo in a month as fighting picked up elsewhere in the former Yugoslav republic.

Five mortar bombs crashed between the Bosnian government building, which was ablaze from earlier fierce fighting, and the city's central market.

Fighting was also intense Friday at Bihać in northwest Bosnia and at Bosanski Samac, Derventa, Odzak and Modrica, all in a

Serb-held northern enclave near the republic's river border with Croatia.

The warring sides are approaching the London talks with different priorities. All factions plan to attend including Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Bosnia wants help to stop the conflict. Rump Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — wants to avoid being put on trial by the international community as chief culprit.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says he will insist at the conference on a confederative set-up of future Bosnia.

He also says he is prepared to swap some parts of Bosnia for peace. The minority Serbs have taken 70 per cent of Bosnian territory.

Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger warned that there was a "very great likelihood" the bloody conflict would spread. He appeared to have Serbia's southern province of Kosovo in mind.

In London the independent newspaper reported that U.N. officials believe Muslim fighters in Bosnia may have staged some "Serb" attacks on Sarajevo in a ploy aimed at winning international sympathy.

The independent said secret reports circulating at the United Nations suggested Muslim defenders of Sarajevo may have carried out attacks designed to look like the work of Bosnian Serbs.

These included the bombing of a bread queue in May which killed at least 16 people and

explosions at a cemetery on Aug. 4 where orphan victims of the war were being buried.

Officials also believed that the sniper's bullet which killed a U.S. television producer, David Kaplan, near Sarajevo this month was unlikely to have come from distant Serb positions, the Independent said.

Meanwhile, over one thousand Muslims from the United States and the Islamic World rallied outside the White House to protest Serbian aggression against Bosnian Muslims and call for Western military intervention.

"As concerned Muslims we have a duty to... raise our voices in outrage at the atrocities that are being perpetrated against innocent people in Bosnia," Zaid Shakir, from the Masjid Al Islam in New Haven, Connecticut, told the crowd assembled at Lafayette Park, across from the White House.

"We are here to show solidarity for those Muslims suffering in Bosnia, Siraj Wahaj, the imam from the Islamic Centre in Brooklyn, New York, said.

After taking part in afternoon prayers and listening to a series of speeches, the rally was to continue outside the State Department, Mr. Shakir said. A similar rally of about 3,000 people took place in front of the United Nations headquarters building in New York City on Aug. 18, Imam Wahaj said.

At the White House rally, participants, including children, carried placards and posters calling for an end to "the killing in Bosnia."

## Taiwan to break ties with S. Korea

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan said Saturday it will break diplomatic relations with South Korea when Seoul establishes official ties with China.

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien said Taipei would also cancel all trade privileges extended to Seoul and suspend a bilateral agreement covering air links with its last formal diplomatic ally in Asia.

Mr. Chien said South Korea's foreign minister had informed Taiwan's ambassador there that Seoul and Peking would establish diplomatic relations Monday.

"We are expressing the strongest dissatisfaction and anger towards South Korea," Mr. Chien, visibly angry, told a news conference.

"The government of (South Korean President) Roh Tae-Woo has violated our trust and trampled on international justice."

South Korea and China formally acknowledged for the first time earlier Saturday that diplomatic ties were imminent. They said South Korea's foreign minister would leave for Peking Sunday to discuss normalisation.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry official said the two sides were expected to sign a protocol Monday, and Seoul would break relations with Taipei in keeping with Peking's "one-China" policy.

China fought alongside North Korea in the 1950-53 Korean War but its economic ties with the South have grown rapidly in recent years and Seoul wants Peking's aid in its confrontation with Pyongyang.

State radio in Taiwan said that Taipei's decision to announce the break in relations before South Korea switched recognition was made "to protect our country's honour." Earlier, it said the switch would be Taiwan's worst diplomatic setback since Washington switched recognition to Peking in 1979.

As a result Taiwan will have diplomatic ties with only 29 states because of its rivalry with China, which has claimed sovereignty over the island since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

Taiwanese Foreign Ministry officials said after Mr. Chien's statement that the trade privileges, which include low tariffs on some goods, were revoked with effect from Saturday.

An agreement allowing two Taiwanese and two South Korean airlines to fly between Taipei and Seoul will be suspended from Sept. 15, though a new pact might be negotiated eventually, they said. Foreign airlines flying the route will not be affected.

South Korea accounts for about 2.4 per cent of Taiwan's foreign trade. Economists said earlier that a suspension of trade privileges might have a major impact on imports of some Korean goods such as petrochemicals, but the overall damage to trade was expected to be limited.

Mr. Chien said Chinese troops had killed tens of thousands of Koreans during the Korean War and Taiwan had been a faithful ally of Seoul in its struggle against communism since then.

He said South Korea had agreed with Peking to hand over the site of Taiwan's embassy in Seoul to China. Taiwan owns the site, estimated to be worth more than \$250 million, but China claims it as the property of the Chinese people.

Mr. Chien urged Taiwanese not to take "emotional actions" against Korean residents in Taiwan, saying Seoul's decision to switch recognition was made by a small group of people.



Soon-Yi Previn (left) with her mother actress Mia Farrow

## Allen has no moral dilemma dating Farrow's daughter

NEW YORK (R) — Woody Allen said in an interview he saw no problem with becoming romantically involved with the 21-year-old adopted daughter of longtime companion Mia Farrow.

"I didn't feel that just because she was Mia's daughter, there was any great moral dilemma," the 56-year-old filmmaker told Time magazine. "It was a fact, but not one of any great import. It wasn't like she was my daughter."

The interview will appear in the magazine's Aug. 31 issue. Allen told Time he "was not a father in any sense of the word" to Farrow's adopted children. He also denied allegations that he molested his 7-year-old adopted daughter, Dylan.

"I have not molested my daughter, nor would I ever," Allen said. Two weeks ago, "I came in the middle of the night. I was in the attic, according to what the Child Protection Agency told me was the allegation, and did unspeakable things to her."

"But nothing at all happened. Nothing, in light years I wouldn't go into an attic. I wouldn't even know how to find Mia's attic. I am a famous claustrophobic. And I would not molest my daughter."

He acknowledged taking nude pictures of Soon-Yi Previn, the daughter of Mia Farrow, 47, and former husband Andre Previn. Allen said this week he and Miss Previn are romantically involved.

Allen said Miss Previn asked him to take the photographs. "At this time we had an intimate relationship, so I said, sure, and I did. It was just a lark of a moment," Allen said.

Farrow and Allen have been in contact through the phone, Allen said. He said Farrow called him

five times Friday and asked if they could stop "this grotesque publicity circus."

"And I said, you have hired a lawyer, you're parading relatives and the kids on television, you leaked this videotape of Dylan unconsciously. She said, can't we negotiate this?" Allen said.

"And I said, first you must clear my name unequivocally. And if you do that and we can agree to give Dylan some real therapy to get over the dreadful scars of this thing, and I am part supervisor of that therapy, then OK we can talk and see if there's a way of toning things down."

Meanwhile Farrow has told her adopted daughter that she still loves her despite her affair with Allen, the New York Post said Friday.

"I told her that I have prayed that she would make wise decisions," Farrow told the Post.

"I said that no matter what she decides, I still love her very much. I will always love her. I don't blame her for this."

The newspaper said Farrow contacted Miss Previn Wednesday at Rider College in New Jersey where she is taking a summer course.

"Soon-Yi's my child. I love her with all my heart. I was happy to know she was safe. I'm absolutely committed to her. I wish she would come home," Farrow said.

The Post said Thursday Farrow learned of Miss Previn's affair with Allen earlier this summer and told her to choose between the family and Allen. Miss Previn chose Allen, the newspaper said, and the family had had little contact with her since.

In the Post interview, Farrow refused to discuss an investigation by Connecticut police into allegations that Allen molested his seven-year-old daughter.

## Bonn interested in permanent U.N. Security Council seat

BONN (R) — Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel suggested Saturday that Germany would seek a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, Bonn's strongest claim yet to a greater U.N. role since German unity in 1990.

Mr. Kinkel said in a newspaper interview that Bonn would "pursue German interests" if Japan sought a permanent place on the Security Council.

"If Tokyo seeks a seat, then we will join in the discussion," Mr. Kinkel told the weekly Welt Am Sonntag in an interview released ahead of publication Sunday.

Mr. Kinkel did not directly say Germany wanted a seat alongside the five permanent Council mem-

bers — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France. But Mr. Kinkel's comments capped a gradual shift in German policy in recent months, away from a time when Chancellor Helmut Kohl denied any interest in joining the five standing Council powers.

Mr. Kinkel's carefully phrased comments in response to questions about a possible Security Council seat reflected Bonn's traditional reticence on the issue.

But German officials who declined to be named said Bonn was likely to stake a claim to a permanent seat if other countries launched a discussion over reforming the make-up of the Security Council.

## Canada unity talks agree on power-sharing with Ottawa

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's political leaders agreed Friday to a major shift of federal powers to the ten provinces in a move to meet French-speaking Quebec's demands for more autonomy.

The power-sharing agreement, reached on the fourth day of national unity negotiations, will give provincial governments exclusive control over mining, forestry, tourism, housing, recreation and urban affairs.

It also curbs federal spending power over culture, immigration, telecommunications, regional development and manpower training.

"We have an agreement in principle on the question of the division of powers," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney told a news conference.

"The traditional requests of Quebec premiers over 30 years find their reflection here today... almost all have been achieved," Mr. Mulroney said.

The plan to renew Canada's 125-year federal system is part of a package of reforms aimed at convincing Quebec to sign the 1982 constitution and avert a separatist threat.

"It is less than we hoped for, but compared to what Quebec got in the past it is a very real progress," Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa told reporters. Quebecers could vote to become a sovereign nation in a referendum scheduled for October that has prompted the rest of the country to bring months of negotiations to a close.

## More blushes as Fergie becomes pin-up girl

LONDON (R) — Duchess "Fergie," disgraced wife of Prince Andrew, suffered the ultimate humiliation Saturday when Britain's best-selling tabloid newspaper made her its pin-up girl for the day.

It was yet more embarrassment for the Duchess of York and the royal family as photographs of her holiday frolics with an American financier continued to capture Britain's imagination and fuelled calls for a review of the monarchy.

The tabloid press pulled out all the stops for the third day's coverage of the furore, with the Daily Mirror devoting almost an entire issue to the subject and its arch rival the sun producing a souvenir poster of a topless Fergie.

The sun also gave a picture of the Duchess of York, 32, pride of place in its infamous pin-up section on page three, usually graced by professional topless models.

This particular shot was only a photomontage, in which the head of the Duchess was superimposed on the body of a shapely model, but it signified the ultimate come-down for a prince's wife who is formally addressed as "your royal highness."

The Daily Mirror produced a new photograph of Fergie wearing a swimsuit and balancing a flower pot on her head.

The duchess, formerly Sarah Ferguson, was in seclusion as reporters laid siege to her refuge at Queen Elizabeth's Balmoral

"So far, English-speaking Canada has agreed to grant Quebec: — Recognition as a distinct society within Canada

— A veto over future change to federal institutions

— A guarantee of at least 25 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons

— An indirect veto in the Senate over matters of French language and culture matters and

— Entrenchment in the constitution of its right to three out of nine of the Supreme Court justices

Mr. Bourassa said control over spending on manpower training alone represented a transfer of 1 billion Canadian dollars to Quebec, along with 4,000 civil servant's jobs. Quebec had demanded but did not get control over unemployment insurance.

He said Quebec's territorial integrity was secured in an accord on aboriginal self-rule and an agreement on an elected, equal-seat Senate demanded by western Canada was acceptable because Quebec had increased its political weight in the House of Commons.

Mr. Bourassa expected to have no trouble selling the package to his Quebec Liberal Party, despite falling short of its 22-point constitutional platform drawn up by lawyer Jean Allaire.

"By and large, what Mr. Allaire would leave Ottawa would be Her Majesty the Queen and the national debt," Mr. Mulroney said.

Castle in Scotland eager for any sign of a flight into exile.

Some reports Thursday ev. had her leaving the estate for a uncertain future abroad, but later turned out she was probably still inside and had only ventured out for a picnic.

Even the Independent newspaper — which usually gives short shrift to royal stories — found room on its front page for a light-hearted discussion of the scandal under the headline "readers cannot get enough of a royal romp."

On a more serious note, the newspaper is calling for the monarchy to be streamlined to restrict public duties, and state payments, to the sovereign and the heir to the throne.

It was joined Saturday by a critical chorus of other newspapers calling for the duchess to be sent packing and for the Civil List, the taxpayers' contribution to royal expenses, to be revised.

The Times commissioned a poll which found that 53 per cent of Britons think the media was wrong to print the revealing photographs, which were taken unbeknown to the duchess with a telephoto lens.

The Daily Star sent a reporter to York, the town in northern England from which the duchess derives her title, to find out what the locals thought about the goings-on. Two thirds of the 150 people questioned said the Duchess of York should be demoted back to commoner status, the newspaper said.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 17 killed in Ukrainian mine blast

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — A series of methane gas explosions in a Ukrainian coal mine killed 20 miners and 15 rescue workers, a government official said Saturday. More than 10 others were injured. The explosions occurred Friday when dangerously high levels of methane were released after miners tried to blast part of the Skochinsky Mine in Donetsk in southeastern Ukraine, said an investigator for the city prosecutor's office. Eleven rescue workers called to the mine after the methane escaped and two miners, including the mine's deputy head engineer, became trapped and were killed almost immediately by the first explosion, the investigator said. He spoke on condition of anonymity. Three more rescue workers were killed in a second explosion after some 100 metres of roof collapsed as they tried to help the first victims, the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported. It said a total of 16 people had been killed in the accident. Another rescue worker was killed later, but the circumstances surrounding his death were unclear, the investigator said.

### Deng Xiaoping turns 88

PEKING (R) — Deng Xiaoping turned 88 Saturday, frail and growing deaf, but having lost none of his appetite for political battle that has made him one of the 20th century's most extraordinary leaders. The birthday of China's paramount leader went completely unmarked in the national media in line with Communist Party policy, which since the days of Chairman Mao Tse-tung has barred the promotion of any cult of personality. Most Chinese people were probably unaware that the man who still largely determines the destiny of one fifth of the world's population had passed another milestone in his life. Mr. Deng walks with shaky steps and strains to catch comments spoken in stage whispers in his ear, but he turns 88 in the thick of a political fray that may be the most important battle of his roller-coaster career that has seen him bounce back twice from national disgrace. This year the Communist Party holds a crucial congress during which Deng will be fighting to ensure that a new generation of leaders is put in place to carry forward his plan for economic reform after he dies.

### France, Germany agree on waste dispute

PARIS (AP) — Garbage piled up in German cities due to a French blockade on imported trash, as environment ministers from the two countries agreed Friday to halt "garbage tourism" and ensure each nation deals with its own waste. The daylong meeting between Segolene Royal of France and Klaus Toeffer of Germany was aimed at defusing French public outcry that Germany is using France as a dumping ground for dangerous waste. The pair formed a working group charged with studying the consequences of France's ban on German waste, which took effect this week and is causing a garbage crisis in some German cities. The group's report is due Aug. 31. Mr. Toeffer and Mrs. Royal told reporters that they agreed that waste should be disposed of near its point of origin. They said that German and French customs and police will share information to stop illegal traffic in garbage.

## Bush faces tough choice: Bash Clinton or hit on issues

HOUSTON (R) — President George Bush's scathing speech accepting the Republican nomination signals an aggressive strategy of making Americans tremble at the thought of Bill Clinton as president.

Mr. Bush's predicament is that he and his predecessor Ronald Reagan have been in charge for 12 years now, yet want no blame for the economic woes that happened on the watch of the two Republican presidents.

Instead Mr. Bush deplores the woes in his campaign rhetoric, as if he had just arrived on the planet from another solar system.

It is somehow the fault of the Democrats in Congress that his administration has never submitted a balanced budget or that he accepted a budget agreement that included a tax increase, or that drug abuse, divorce and violent crime remain widespread despite a 12-year Republican assault.

And it is somehow Mr. Clinton, the Democratic nominee, or his wife Hillary, who are to blame for the nation's lack of morals

and the endangered state of the traditional nuclear family.

Were Mr. Clinton a perfect candidate, Mr. Bush's decision to focus on bashing Mr. Clinton rather than leveling with voters would surely be a losing strategy.

But Mr. Clinton admits he is anything but perfect, having overcome extraordinary obstacles to win the Democratic nomination.

One of his failed rivals for the nomination, former California Governor Jerry Brown, dubbed him "the prince of sleaze" during the primary campaign.

Another, Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey, predicted the Republicans would open him up in the fall campaign "like a soft peanut" because of his avoidance of military service during the Vietnam War.

During the New York primary, asked whether he had ever used illegal drugs, Mr. Clinton initially said he had never broken any U.S. or state law. Then, when asked whether he had violated international law, he acknow-

ledged experimenting with marijuana while a Rhodes scholar in Britain.

And that is why it is tough to fault Mr. Bush for his decision to dwell on the negative: Mr. Clinton has raised questions about himself on many issues that Americans are deeply concerned about.

But no politicians is perfect, including Mr. Bush.

And unlike Mr. Bush, Mr. Clinton has at least straightforwardly told voters that if he won a perfect candidate, they should simply vote for the other guy.

Voters knew this when they handed Mr. Clinton the Democratic nomination, presumably based on his stand on the issues and on his campaign skills.

The Bush campaign, on the other hand, has conceded nothing, instead focusing almost exclusively on bashing Clinton and on moral appeals.

"The character issue always is the essential issue," Bush campaign chairman Robert Teeter

said Thursday. "That's the real issue," he said, saying polls showed that voters wanted information on the candidates' family value to help them make up their minds.

Meanwhile, President Bush had a message to America about his tax increase of 1990: Sorry about that.

"Two years ago, I made a bad call on the Democrats' tax increase... well, it was a mistake," he told thousands of applauding Republicans in accepting his nomination for a second term.

Mr. Bush made "head-in-the-sand" no new taxes the central theme of his 1988 campaign.

Yet less than two years later, he agreed to a tax increase in a budget deal with the Democratic-controlled Congress.

Under the deal Mr. Bush got Congress to agree to a ceiling on defence and domestic spending, and that any defence cuts be applied to reducing the country's budget deficit.

"With my back against the wall, I agreed to a hard bargain: One tax increase, one time, in

return for the toughest spending limits ever," he said.

But conservatives were incensed, and their anger is costing votes to the president.

After insisting the deal was a good one because of the spending caps, Mr. Bush knuckled under to the right and repudiated the tax increase several months ago.

On Thursday night he apologised for it at the Republican national convention in the high-profile, setting of the Houston Astrodome, with the eyes of America watching on.

"When it comes to taxes, I've learned the hard way," he said.

But he quickly drew a comparison between himself as a reformed sinner to Democrat Bill Clinton, who he said would gleefully raise taxes on Americans with no sense of guilt.

"Who do you trust in this election? The candidate who raised taxes one time and regrets it, or the other candidate who raised taxes and fees 128 times, and enjoyed it every time?" he asked.

## COLUMN

### King rat-killer sues over poison-pen letter

PEKING (R) — China's self-proclaimed "king of the rat-killers" has filed a libel suit against a senior government scientist who said his famous lethal potion was no good, the official Legal Daily reported. Qiu Mantun claimed the title thanks to his "Dr. Qiu's rat-luring potion," said to be able to entice rodents out of their holes even in broad daylight. The potion has received numerous national awards. In a suit filed in Peking on Aug. 12, Dr. Qiu accused the scientist of ruining his reputation by publishing an article attacking the potion.

### Aussie 'layabouts' outworking Japanese

HONG KONG (R) — Australians, derided by some Asians as beer-swilling layabouts, work longer hours than the legendary workaholics in Japan, a survey said. The survey of Far Eastern Economic Review magazine readers in 10 Asia-Pacific nations shows Australian respondents spent an average 9.5 hours a day working and commuting compared 9.3 hours for Japanese. Earlier this year the review ran a cover picture of drunken Australians stripped to the waist. The photograph accompanied articles describing the country's economic decline in the middle of an Asian boom.

### Philippines sniffs out garlic smuggling attempt

MANILA (R) — The Philippine Coast Guard followed its nose and seized a Panamanian-registered cargo ship, arresting its crew for trying to smuggle garlic into the country without paying duty, a Coast Guard spokesman said. Coast Guard Lieutenant-Commander Amado Samante said the garlic was seized from the Palan Luna, anchored off Puerto Galera in central Mindoro Island. The ship was carrying 10,000 sacks of Taiwanese garlic valued at five million pesos (\$20,000), he said. Com. Samante said the Coast Guard arrested the ship's skipper, eight crew members and six civilians who were aboard the ship.

### Indonesian farmer beheads rebel after feeding him

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia has rewarded a farmer who gave food and a bed to a suspected guerrilla before beheading him as he slept, the official Antara News Agency said. It said Binufasus Jarakert, 59, accommodated the rebel who arrived at his farm in the remote province of Irian Jaya near the border with Papua New Guinea. "While the guest was asleep, Mr. Binufasus killed and beheaded (him)," the agency said. The government gave him a four million rupiah (\$1,965) reward, several times the average annual income in the province.

### You start at Eden, end up in Heaven

NASHVILLE, Tenn (AP) — You start at the Garden of Eden, get past the Devil and end up in Heaven when you play at Uncle Budel's Miniature Golf Course. Along the way, your ball goes into Noah's Ark, drops into Mount Sinai and visits the Tomb of Christ. At this miniature golf course 20 minutes south of downtown Nashville, the windmills and water hazards of traditional layouts have been replaced by obstacles representing Bible stories. The 15 holes under spreading maple trees are called "the love tour." Not satisfied with just those holes, owner Howard Claude added another 15 that have obstacles symbolic of country music performers. "I wanted it to be unique," the slender 52-year-old businessman said as he showed off the course he started in 1989. On the second hole, balls disappear into the hole with the devil pictured above it and come out of a hole with a red cross painted nearby. "See, you beat the devil," Mr. Claude said. Later, you putt into Noah's Ark, go past a pharaoh and walk on a crimson carpet representing the Red Sea. Your ball goes into Mount Sinai on the sixth hole and drops down 10 steps representing the ten commandments. The 10th hole is "Christmas corner," and you putt down into a manger scene. "I had a baby Jesus but someone stole it," Mr. Claude said incredulously. The 14th hole represents the tomb of Christ, made out of a camper truck top, with dogwoods inside to symbolise Easter and new life.